

"More than worthy successor to Immortal Hulk." — Comicon

THE INCREDIBLE HULK



JOHNSON
KLEIN
FOREMAN
WILSON

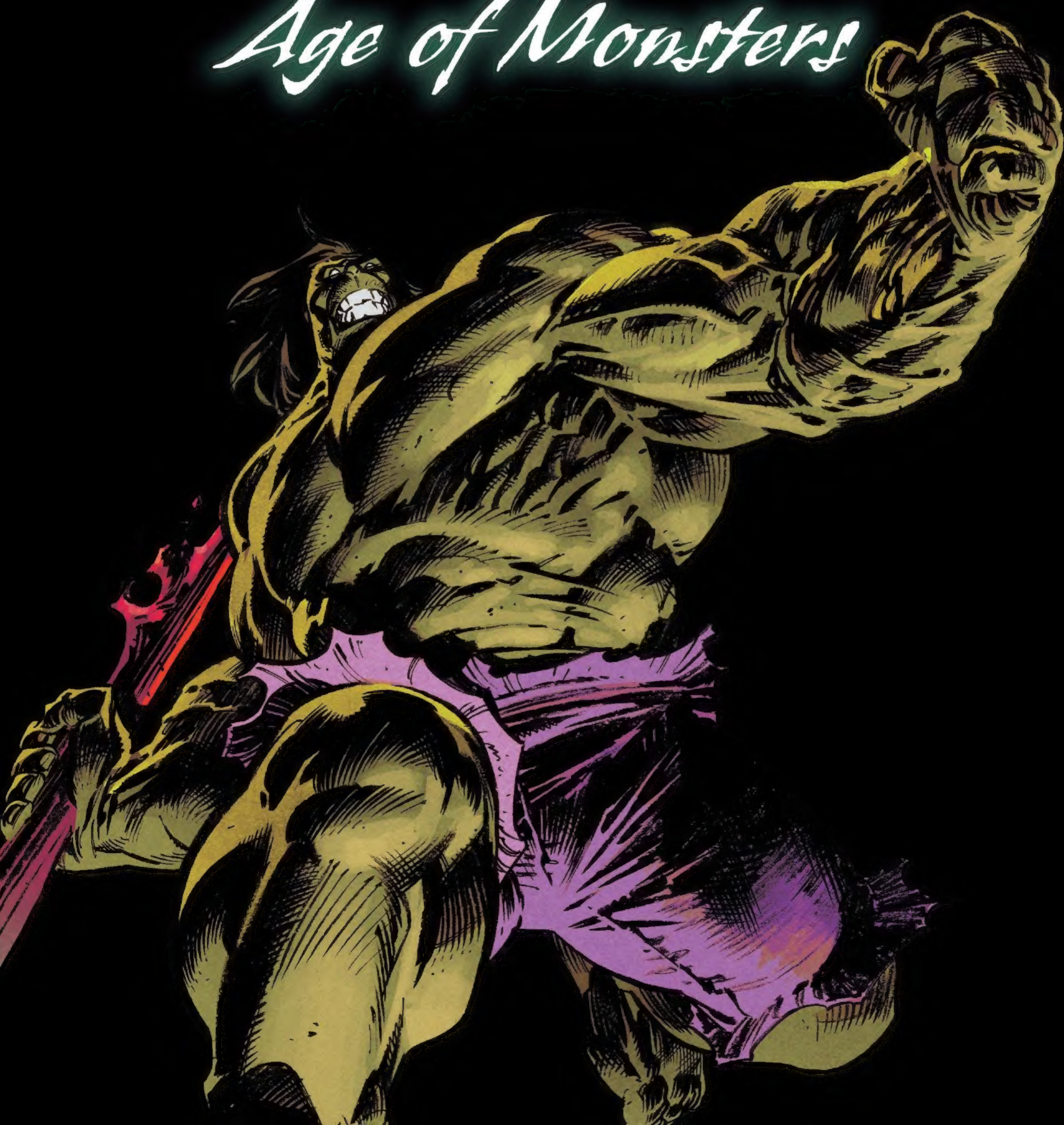
AGE OF MONSTERS

MARVEL

2023

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

Age of Monsters



Bruce Banner is a man constantly at war with himself, for within him is the green, rage-fueled, Gamma-powered force of nature known as the Hulk.

Bruce and the Hulk recently worked together to close the Green Door, a metaphysical threshold that allowed fellow Gamma mutants—like Bruce's estranged wife Betty Ross—to return to life after dying.

Then, to try to tame the monster within him, Bruce seized control of the Hulk's body by imprisoning—and torturing—the Hulk's psyche.

But Bruce couldn't keep the Hulk locked away forever, and now he finds himself once again on the run in order to protect the rest of the world from...

HULK CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK

Age of Monsters

HULK ANNUAL

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BRUCE



GRENDAL ?

PREVIOUS: Nic Klein
TITLE: _____
DATE: _____
PAGE: _____
INTERIORS

“Is he man or monster or...is he both?”

The question posed by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby on the cover of 1962's **THE INCREDIBLE HULK #1** sums up the genius of the Hulk. Any little kid can understand the concept, but the best Hulk stories offer the reader more meaningful questions, almost any kind of story or message you'd want. Hulk is a power fantasy, a rage metaphor, a super-hero adventure, a deep dive on abuse, a classic horror movie...anything you need.

But beneath all that, with all respect to Lee and Kirby: Hulk is a **MONSTER**.

And not just him. Hulk's **WORLD** is one of monsters, as our own world is and as this book **DEFINITELY** is. The story you're about to read, told alongside my brilliant co-creators Nic Klein, Matthew Wilson and Cory Petit, sees Hulk walking through our world, unearthing ancient terrors and mysteries to which most of us are blind. It's about rage, violence and all the dark, profane things that watch us from watery graves, condemned laboratories, potter's fields and cosmic hellscape. Some from Marvel lore, some from ancient folktales, some never-before-seen—Hulk will smash them all.

But no monster should be scarier than the one who stalks Bruce Banner from behind his eyes. The apex predator who watches when Banner finds a moment's peace, when he's close to achieving something meaningful or having something beautiful...always waiting for its chance to rip its way out of Banner's broken body and tear everything down.

To me, that's what Hulk is: the thing that scares us about ourselves, that works against us, that breaks things. maybe we win a round or two, but in the end, it's still there, waiting. The strongest one there is.

Welcome back to the Incredible Hulk.
Phillip Kennedy Johnson



1 :: "AGE OF MONSTERS"

ONE YEAR AGO.
AL-QĀDISIYYAH
GOVERNORATE, IRAQ.

SCRAAAAAAAAAAPE
POOOOOM

→SNFF←

→COUGH←
'KINELL.

STINKS
IN HERE.

FUNNY THING
ABOUT TOMBS,
THAT. THERE'S **DEAD**
STUFF AND ALL.

THE UNIVERSITY
CREW'LL BE HERE BY
SUNUP. PACK UP WHAT
LOOKS VALUABLE
AND LET'S GO,
QUICK.

SWEET MARY
AND JOE, WHAT
IS **THAT?!**

WE...ARE
GONNA BE **RICH...**
AS **DEVILS.**

THIS PLACE AIN'T
WHAT DOCTOR SHAKIR
THINKS IT IS. THIS AIN'T
NO **KING'S** TOMB.



THERE'S
MONSTERS
DOWN HERE.

THOUGHT
THIS WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
FULL O' **JEWELS**
AND THAT.

ALL I SEE IS
BONES AND...
WHATEVER THIS IS.
PETRIFIED CAMEL
\$@%&.

THOSE FREAKISH
BIG ONES ON THE
WALLS MIGHT BE WORTH
SOMETHIN', IF WE CAN
MOVE 'EM.

IS IT
MUTANT
CADAVERS, MAYBE?
DID THEY **HAVE**
MUTANTS BACK
THEN?

AW. THIS
ONE WAS JUST
A **CHILD**.

HULLO,
LITTLE
LOVE.

HOW'D
YOU COME
TO BE...

HERE

PACK IT
UP, TRUDY.
LET'S GO.

TRUDY?

COME
ON, I'M
NOT GETTING
ARRESTED
FOR THIS
RUBBISH.

TRUDY!
WHAT'S GOT
INTO--?

THE
GREEN DOOR
IS SHUT.



THANK
YOU FOR
COMING
HERE.



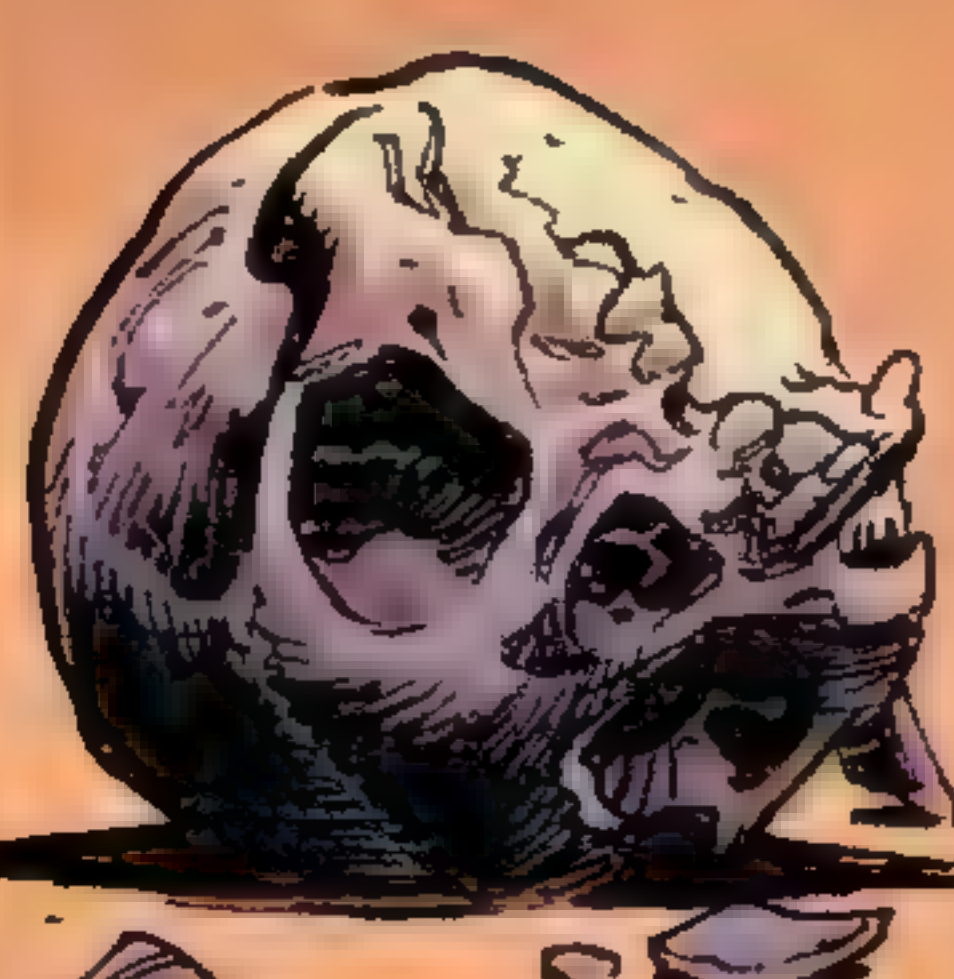
TUH-TRUDY!
IT'S ME, PLEASE
DON'T!
PLEASE
DOOOOONNT--



COMING TO
FREE YOU--AND
ALL MY BROTHERS
AND SISTERS.

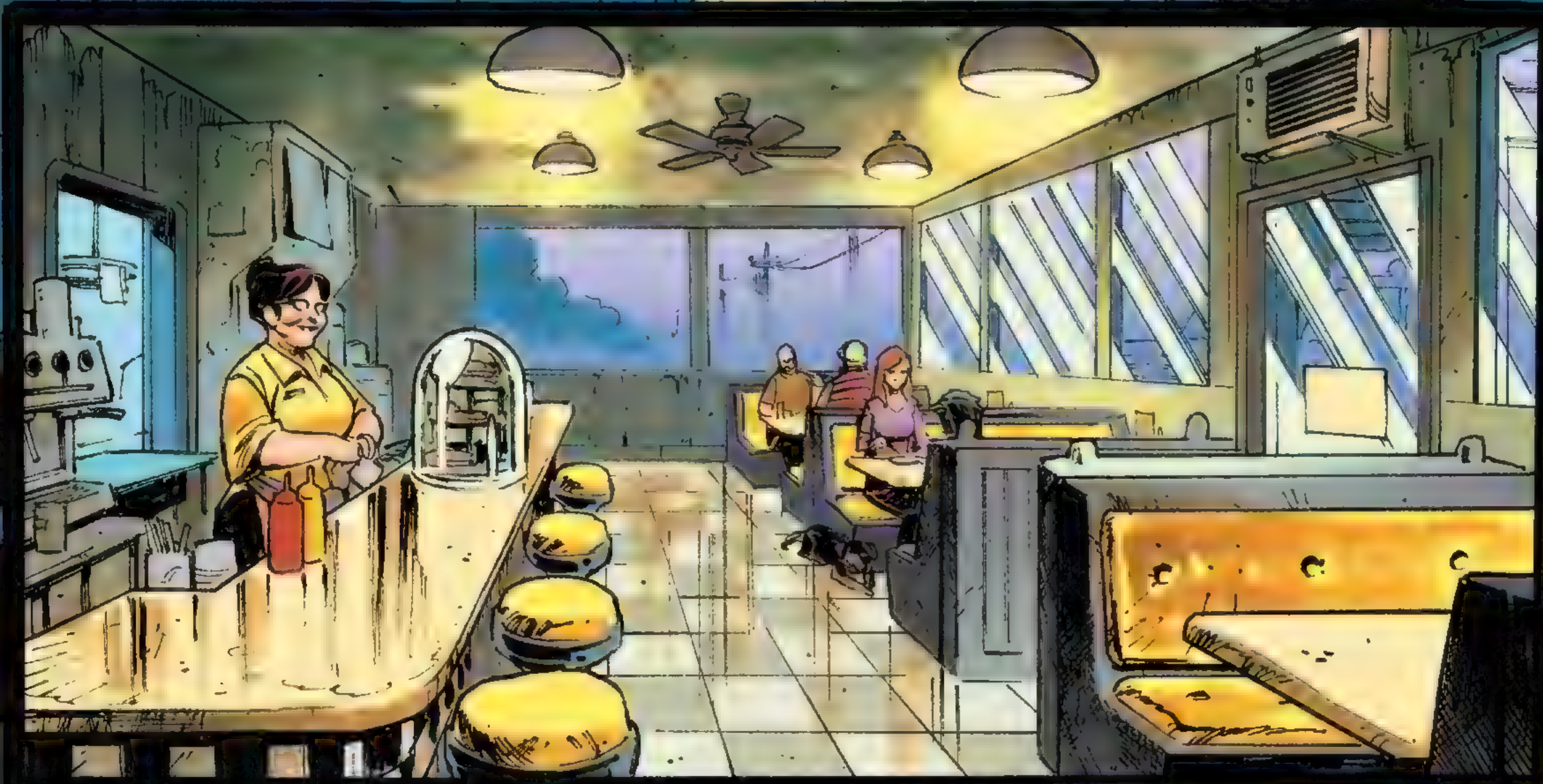
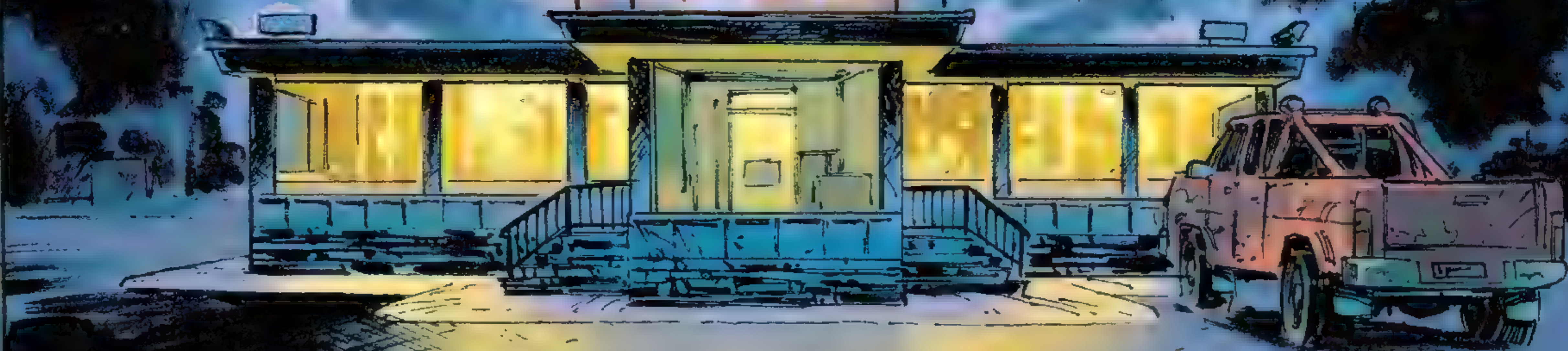
NONE NOW
REMAIN WITH
THE STRENGTH TO
DENY US OUR
KINGDOM...

...BECAUSE
THE GREEN
DOOR IS
SHUT.



NOW.
ESTILL COUNTY,
KENTUCKY.

Jack's
Diner



KDNN

EVENIN'.
GRAB A SEAT
WHEREVER
YOU--

JUST SOME
SANDWICHES TO
GO, PLEASE.

WHATEVER'S
MADE IS FINE. I
CAN'T STAY.

→WHINE←

HE CAN'T
DECIDE IF HE'S A
SUPER HERO OR
A BEGGAR.



...HUH?

MY
DOG.

HE'S
USUALLY THE BIG,
PROTECTIVE TOUGH GUY,
BUT RIGHT NOW, HE'S
JUST AFTER YOUR
SANDWICH.

LISTEN,
I CAN'T... I'VE
GOTTA...

NO, NO,
I'M SORRY, WE
DIDN'T MEAN TO
STARTLE YOU.

ARE YOU
OKAY, THOUGH?
YOU KINDA SEEM
LIKE YOU'RE IN
TROUBLE.

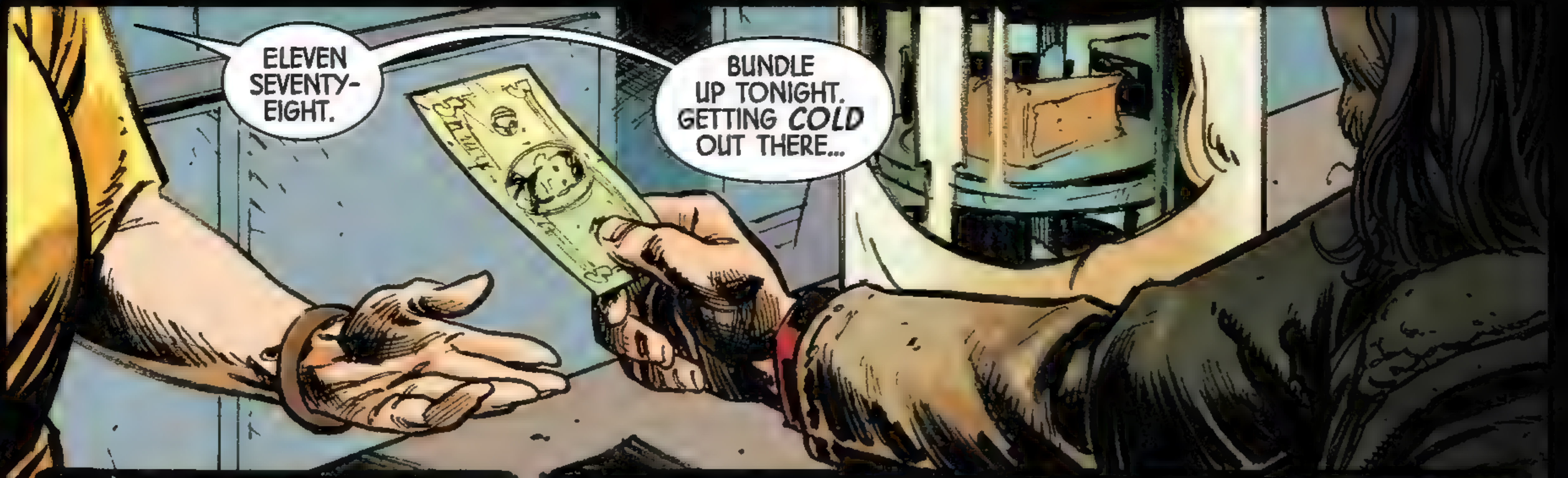
SOMEONE'S...
VERY, VERY ANGRY
AT ME. I SHOULDN'T
TALK ABOUT IT.

THERE'S
NOTHING ANYONE
CAN DO.



YOU DO
LOOK LIKE
YOU COULD USE
A SANDWICH,
THOUGH.





ELEVEN
SEVENTY-
EIGHT.

BUNDLE
UP TONIGHT.
GETTING COLD
OUT THERE...



ESPECIALLY
LITTLE THING
LIKE YOU.

...WHAT?



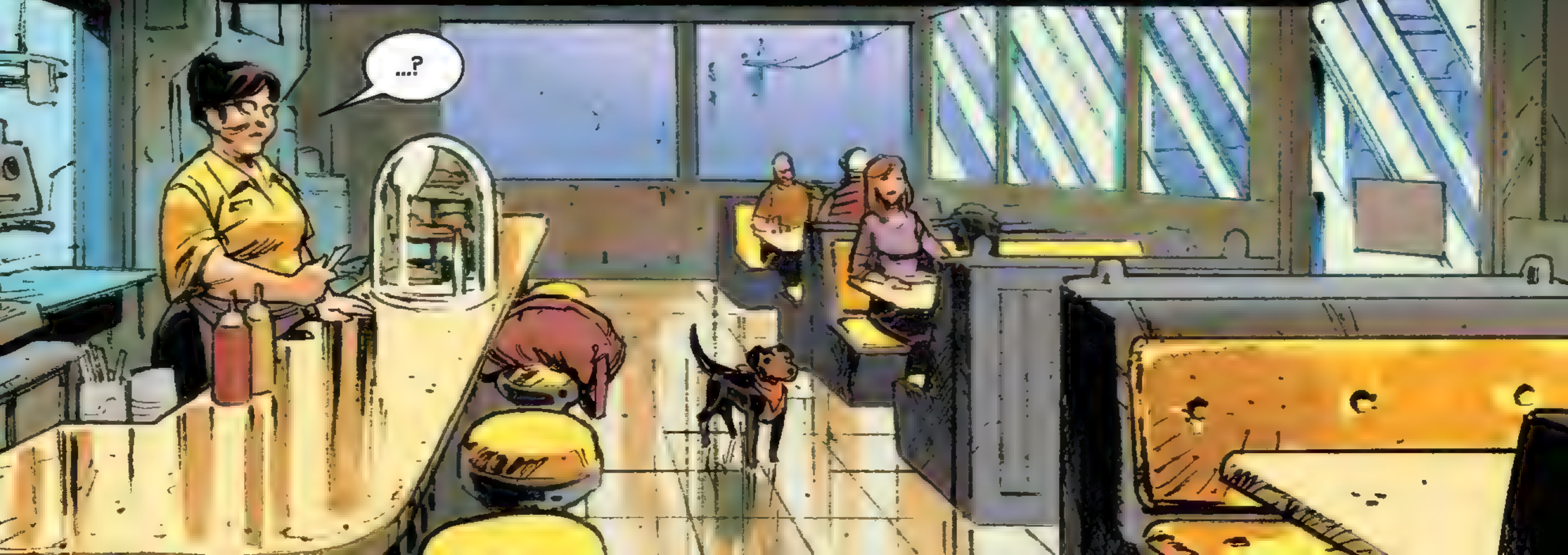
WARNED
YOU,
BANNER.



SHOULD
HAVE STAYED
AWAY.



THERE'S
TWELVE,
THIRTEEN,
FOURTEEN
AND...



...?



→HUFF←

→HUFF←

PLEASE
DON'T



PLEASE
DON'T

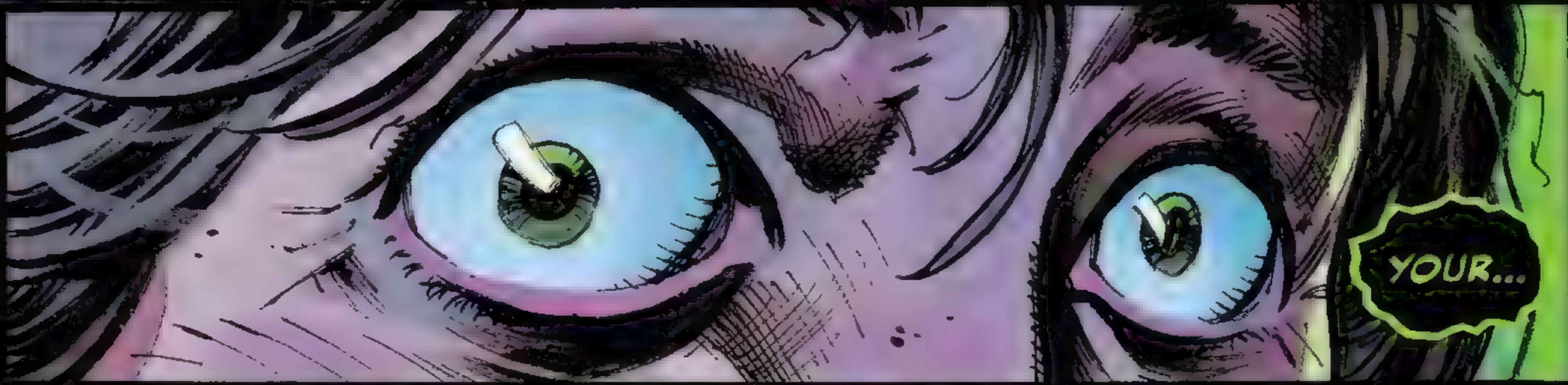
→HUFF←

IT'S
NOT THEIR
FAULT

NO.



YOUR
FAULT,
BANNER.

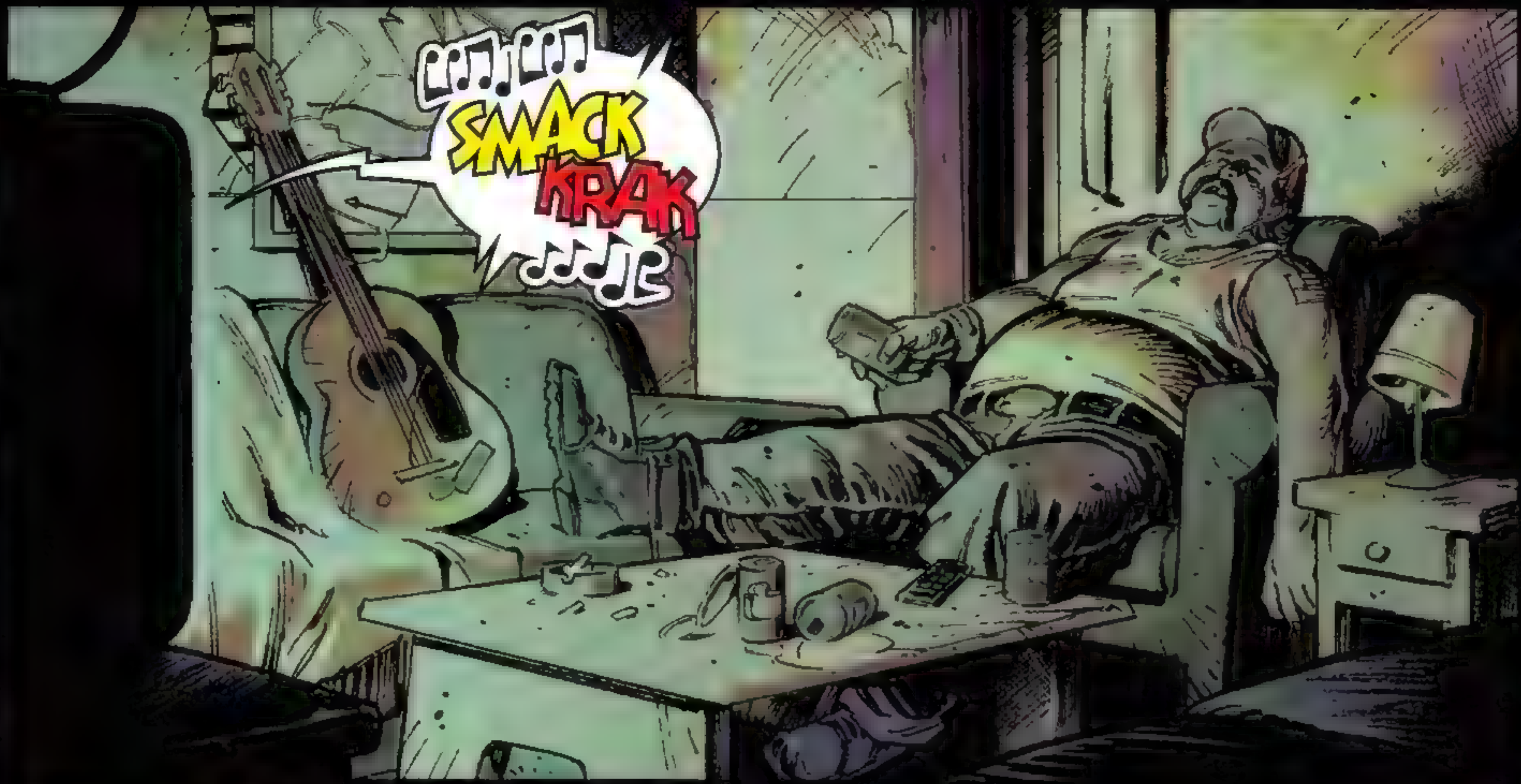


YOUR...



...FAULT.





YOUR DAD'S DEFINITELY NOT GONNA WAKE UP, RIGHT, CHARLIE?

I'VE BEEN WORKIN' ON THIS CAR FOR MONTHS, AND HE DON'T KNOW IT EVEN RUNS.

YOU GONNA HELP OR WHAT, RUSTY?

FINALLY, FAIR MAIDEN CALLS ON THE BRUTE STRENGTH OF THE...

→MMP← MANLY BEST FRIEND.

I JUST WANT THIS PLACE IN MY REARVIEW MIRROR.



HE WON'T BE PISSED
ENOUGH ABOUT THE
CAR TO COME
LOOKIN' FOR US,
WILL HE?

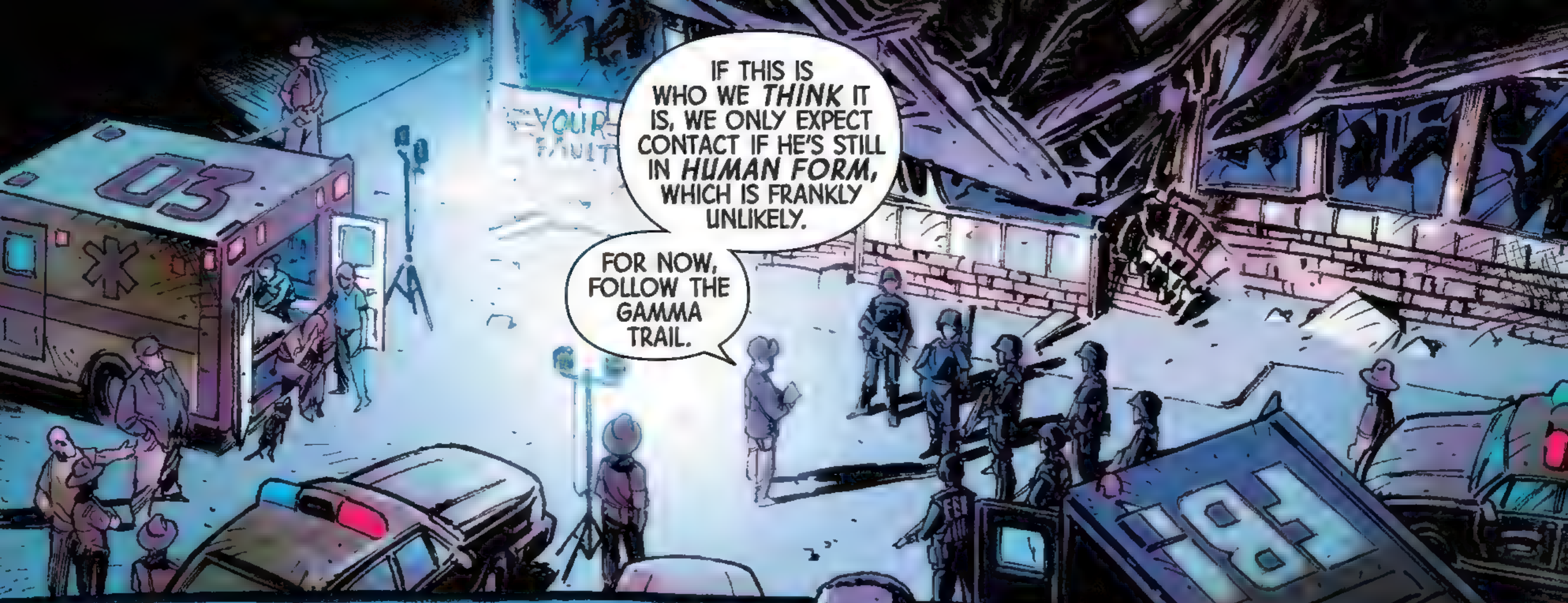
GRAMMA LEFT
ME THE MUSTANG, NOT
HIM. IF HE DOESN'T LIKE IT,
HE CAN PUNCH SOME
MORE HOLES IN THE
WALLS.

IF I COULDA
TOOK MY DRIVER'S
TEST AT TEN YEARS
OLD, I WOULD'VE LEFT
A LONG TIME
AG--



WANNA
TELL ME WHAT
THE HELL YOU'RE
DOIN' WITH MY
CAR?





IF THIS IS WHO WE *THINK* IT IS, WE ONLY EXPECT CONTACT IF HE'S STILL IN *HUMAN FORM*, WHICH IS FRANKLY UNLIKELY.

FOR NOW, FOLLOW THE GAMMA TRAIL.



IF WE FIND HIM AND HE'S IN *HUMAN FORM*? HIT HIM WITH THE C-GUNS AND *POUR. IT. ON.*

IF HE'S THE *OTHER* THING? DO NOT ENGAGE.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. KNOW WHEN TO SHOOT AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHEN *NOT TO*, AND WE'LL ALL LIVE THROUGH THIS.

LET'S MOVE OUT.



THE *CATTLE* BELIEVE IT'S HIM.

THE BELIEF OF CATTLE MEANS LITTLE.

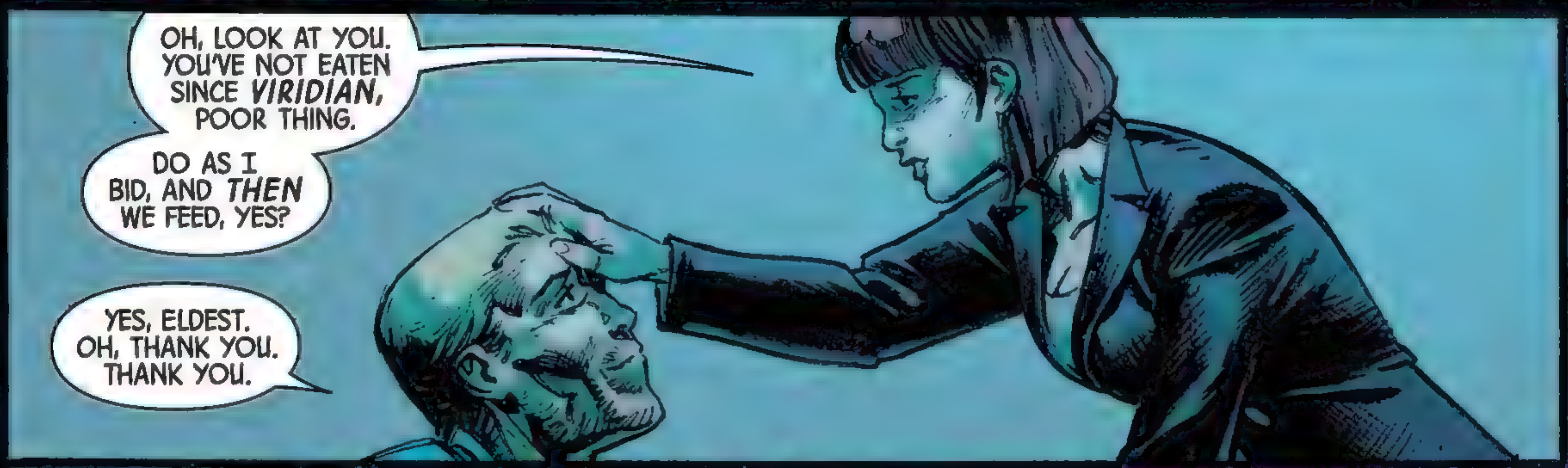
BUT THIS PLACE *DOES* HAVE THE STINK OF THE GREEN DOOR.



FOLLOW
THEM, MY CUNNING,
CLEVER BOY. FIND THE
TRUTH OF IT.

YES,
ELDEST.

ELDEST...
MAY I KEEP
ONE? I'M SO
HUNGRY.



OH, LOOK AT YOU.
YOU'VE NOT EATEN
SINCE VIRIDIAN,
POOR THING.

DO AS I
BID, AND THEN
WE FEED, YES?

YES, ELDEST.
OH, THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.

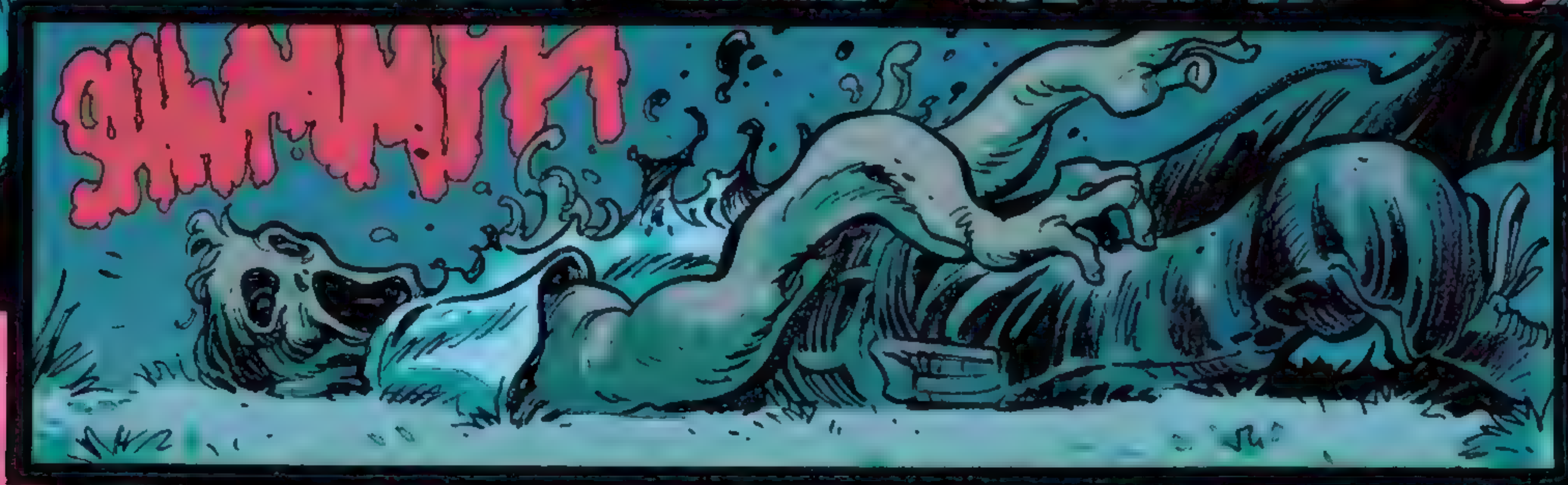


I'LL MAKE
YOU SO PROUD
OF ME.

GROOOAANN

ROO

BOOM







PLEASE
DON'T RESIST,
DOCTOR! MISTER
STARK IS
WAITING TO--

YOU CAN'T
BE HERE! HE'S
HUNTING
ME!



WHO'S
HUNTING
YOU?

THE **HULK!**
HE'S NOT **PLAYING**
AVENGER ANYMORE!
THIS IS BETWEEN **HIM**
AND **ME!**

...HOW CAN
THE **HULK**
BE--?



YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND. I'D
WON. I'D LOCKED HIM
AWAY IN MY MIND...
HAD HIM COMPLETELY
UNDER CONTROL.*

BUT NOW
HE'S **OUT,** AND HE
WANTS CONTROL...
PERMANENTLY. IT'S
JUST A MATTER
OF TIME.

*SEE **HULK #1 (2021)!**



S-SIR?

MAYBE WE
SHOULD RUN,
LIKE **BANNER**
S--

IT'S TOO
LATE.

HE'S
HERE.





BANNER'S
MINE.

THIS
BODY'S
MINE.

MINE.

TELL
STARK...

TUNG

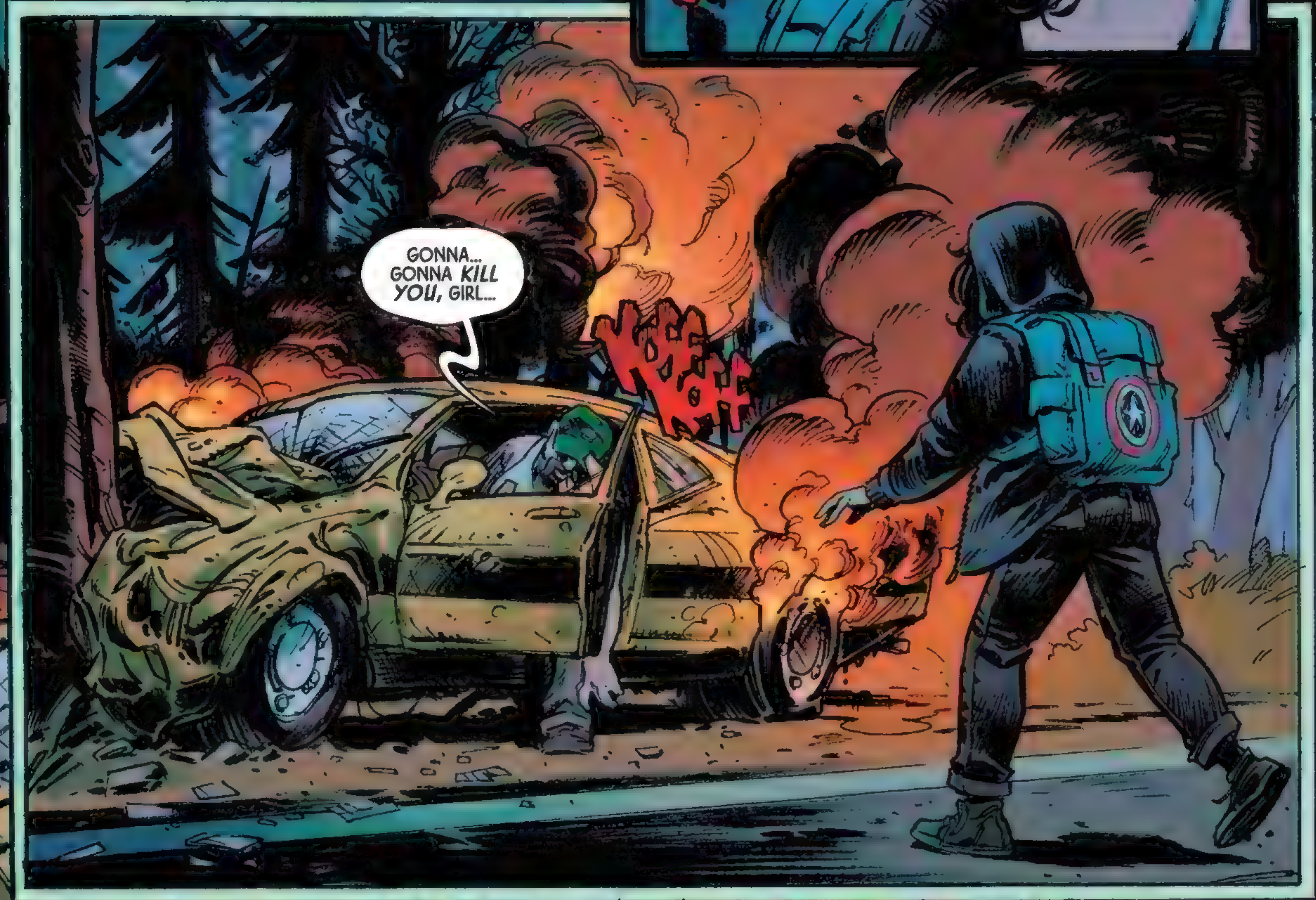
KA

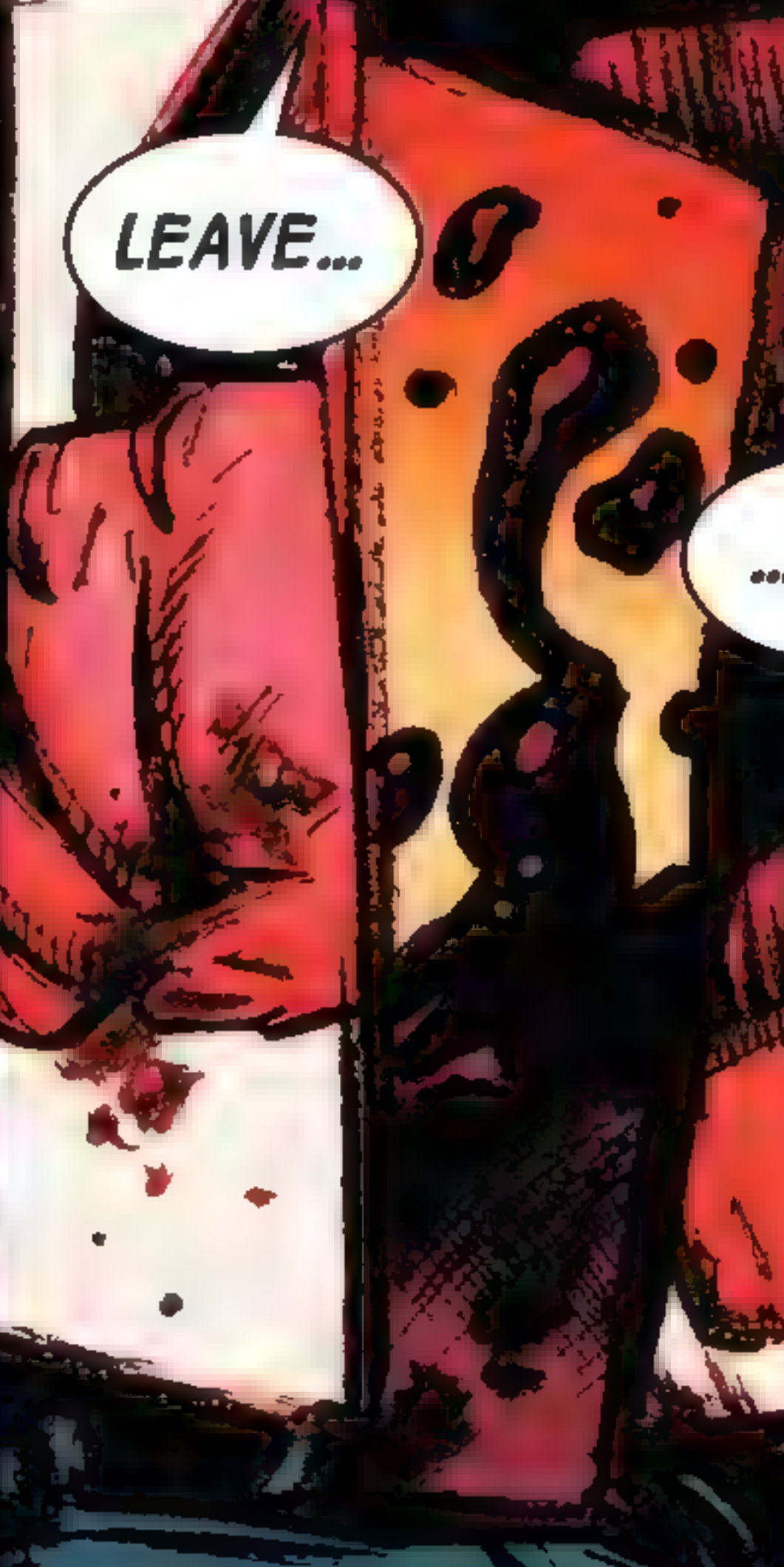
POP
KRRK

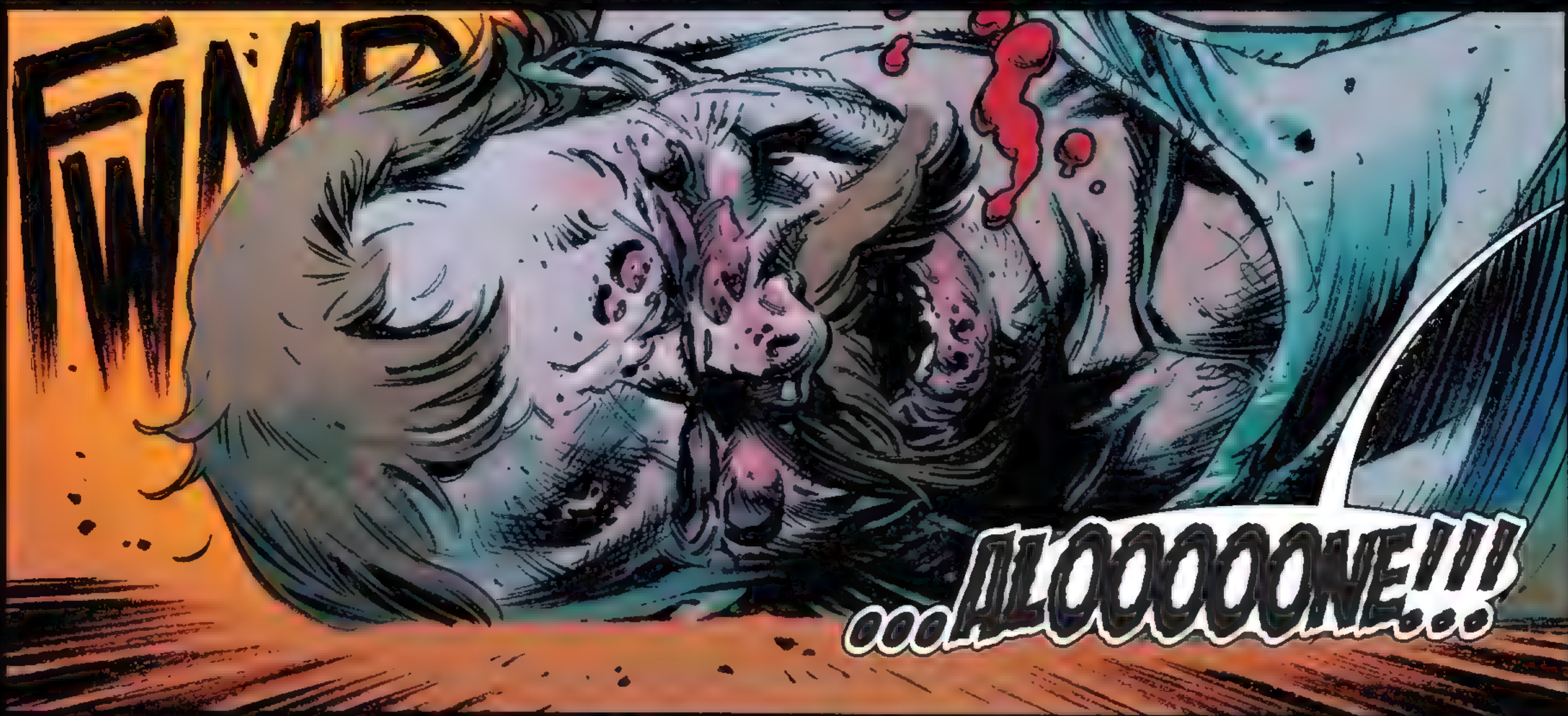
MACRY
RRRIIPPP

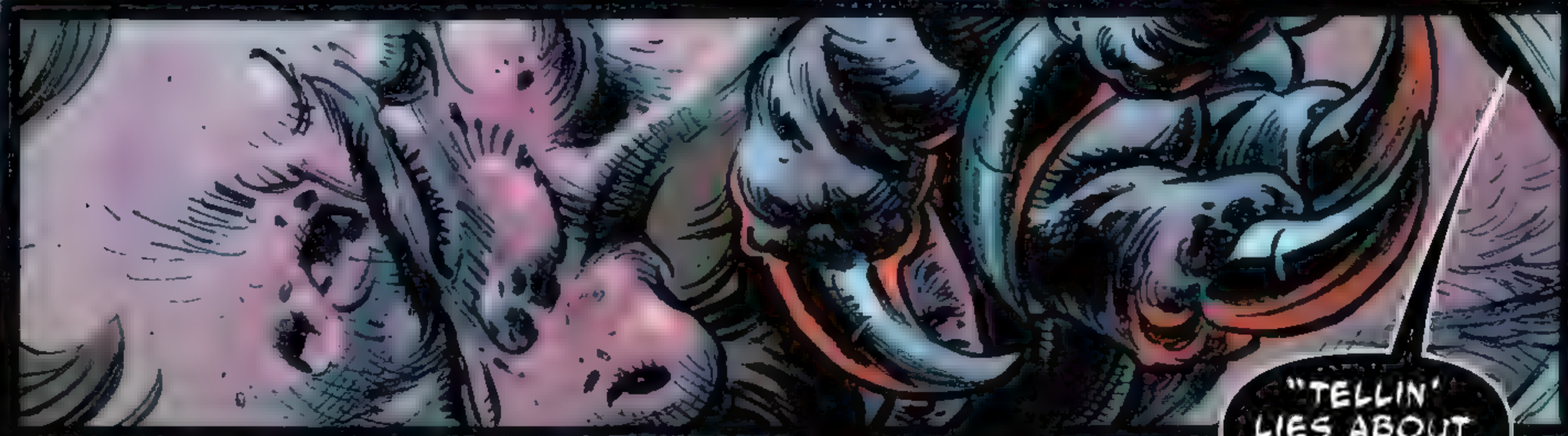
...LEAVE
ME
ALONE.



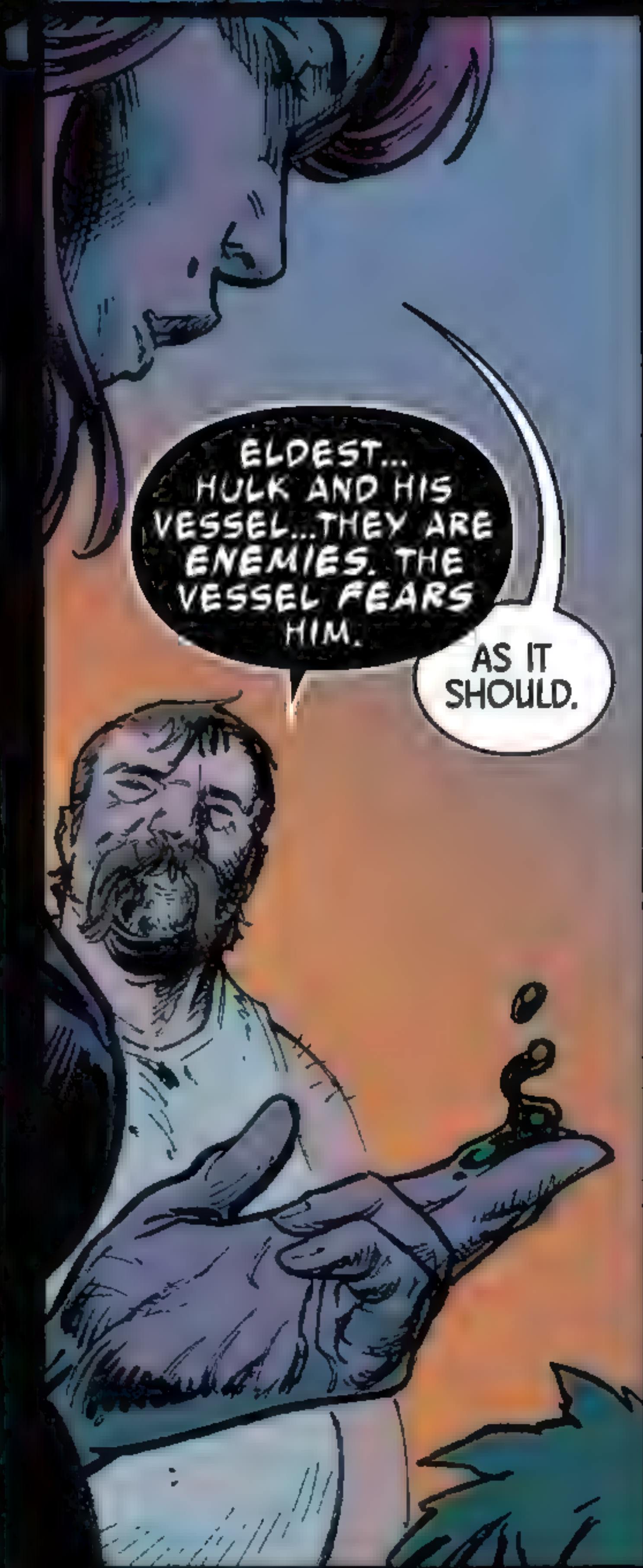
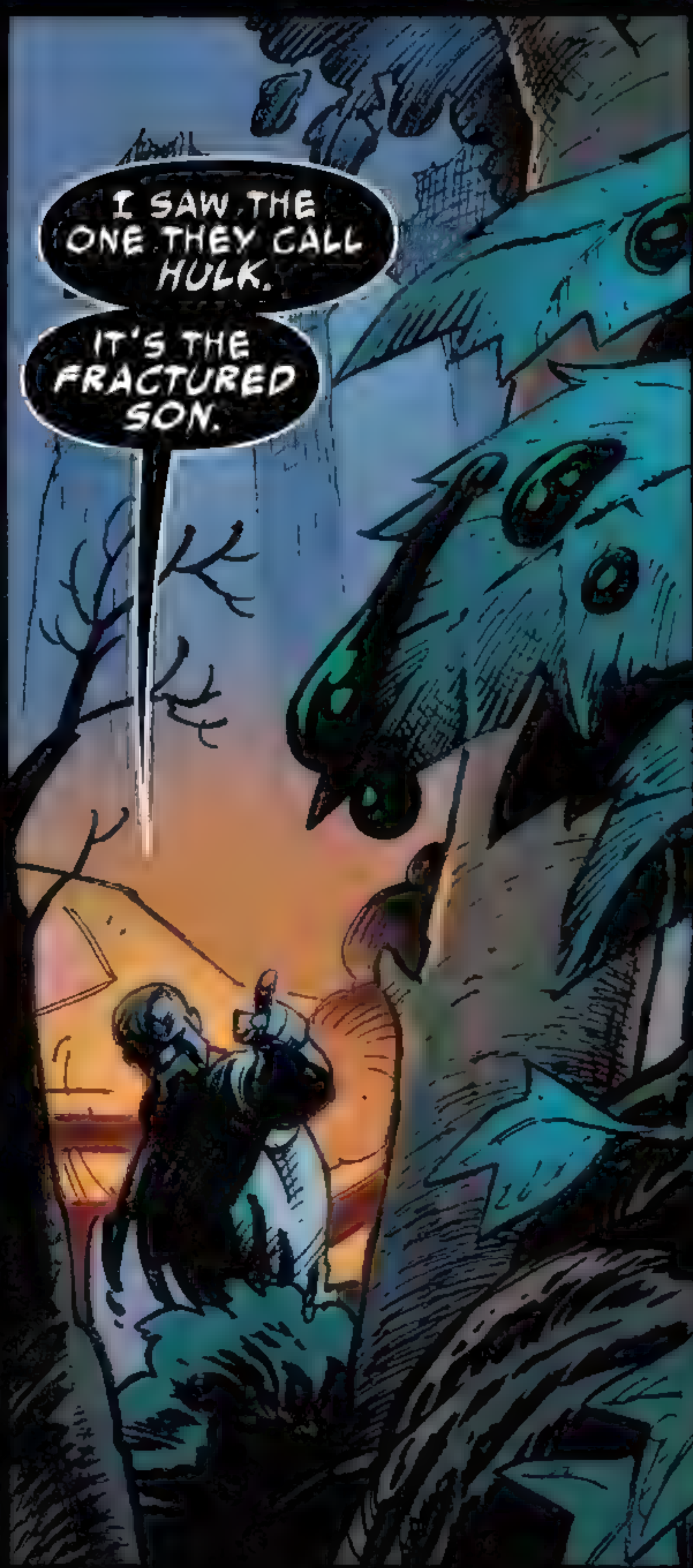








"TELLIN' LIES ABOUT ME AGAIN."





FEAR HAS
EVER BEEN
THE **TRUEST**
WORSHIP.

IF THE VESSEL
WISHES TO BE **RID**
OF THE GODFLESH HE
WEARS, ALL THE
BETTER FOR US.

YOU SERVED
US **WELL**, LITTLE
LOVE. EVEN IF THERE
IS SOMETHING OF
THE GREEN DOOR
IN YOU.

WHEN YOU
WERE MORTAL,
THE HULK'S VESSEL
WAS YOUR MATE.
YES?

MY...
HUSBAND.

**BRUCE
BANNER.**

BRUCE WILL
NEVER LET YOU HAVE
HULK. AND HULK WILL
KILL YOU IF YOU
TRY.

I FEEL YOU WRIGGLING
ABOUT IN THERE...TRYING
TO CAST ME OUT OF
YOUR MIND. YOU
NEEDN'T.

YOU ARE
STILL A CHILD OF
THE **MOTHER OF
HORRORS...**

...AND
I AM HER
ELDEST.

HIS PREDECESSOR
TRIED. THIS ONE WILL
FARE NO BETTER.



HEAR ME,
TERRORS OF
EARTH.

ALL WHO
HIDE FROM THE
SUN WITHIN SHADOW
AND DREAM...



"...WHO DWELL IN CAVE
AND RIVER AND WELL
AND TOMB.



"ALL WHO MEN
NAME MONSTER.



"ANY ALLEGIANCE
YOU ONCE OWED
IS ENDED.

"I COMMAND YOU
BY THE WILL OF THE
ONCE-AND-FUTURE
RULER OF EARTH, THE
ALMIGHTY MOTHER
OF HORRORS.



"SEEK OUT THE
FRACTURED SON..."

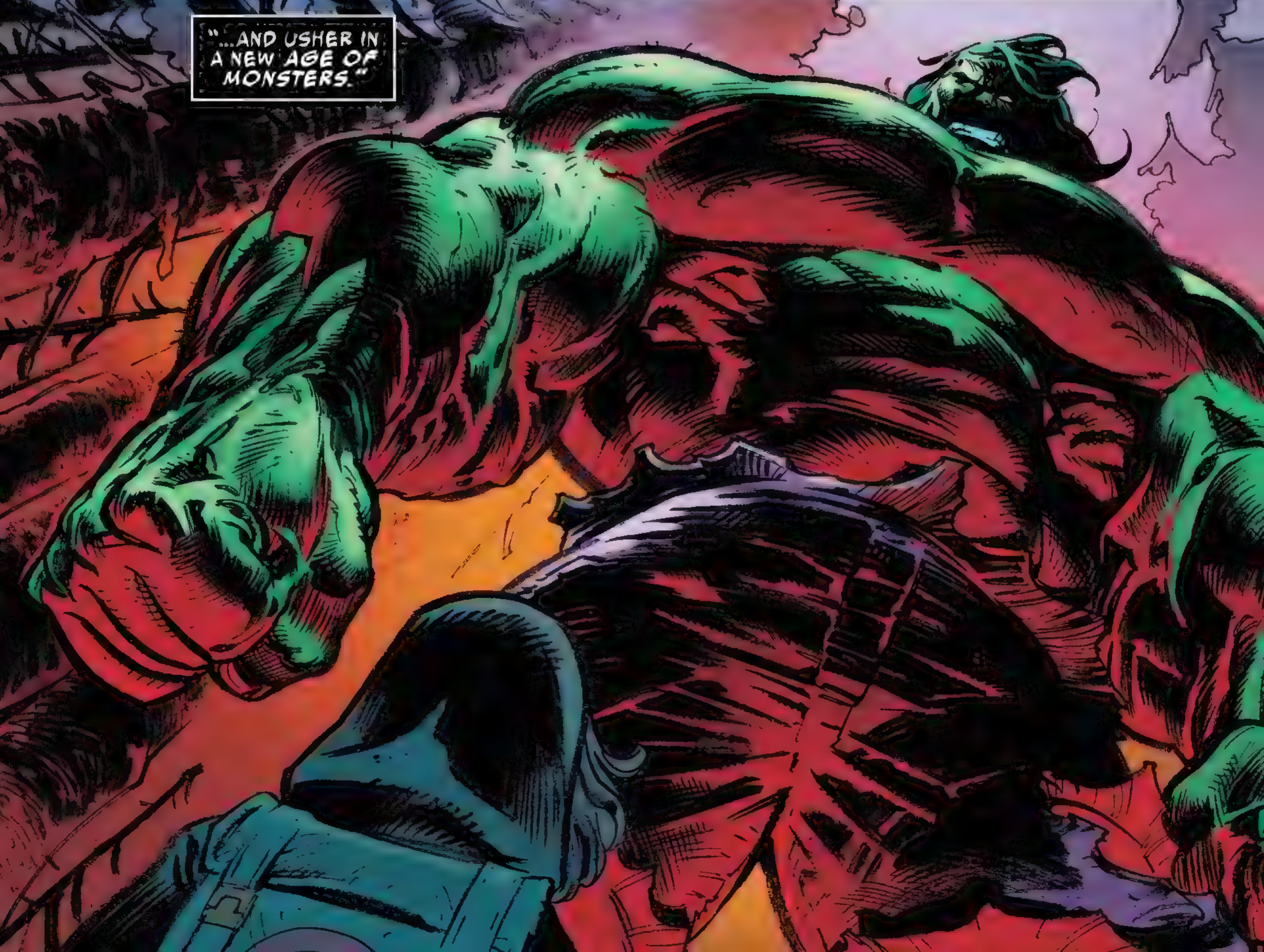
"...THE ONE MEN
NAME HULK."



"HIS SPIRIT IS THAT OF
A WILLFUL BRUTE...THAT
OF THE ONE BELOW
ALL, OUR ENEMY...BUT HIS
FLESH IS OURS BY RIGHT."



"IT IS THE KEY WITH
WHICH WE WILL FREE THE
MOTHER OF HORRORS..."



"...AND USHER IN
A NEW AGE OF
MONSTERS."

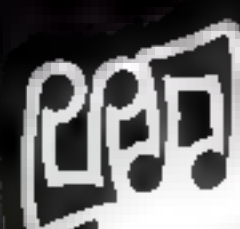


INCREDIBLE HULK #1 VARIANT BY JIM CHEUNG & JAY DAVID RAMOS

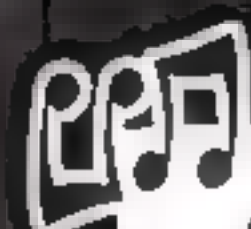




AT THE END OF MY DAYS,
WHEN I'M LAID TO REST
DON'T YOU SHED NO TEARS FOR ME

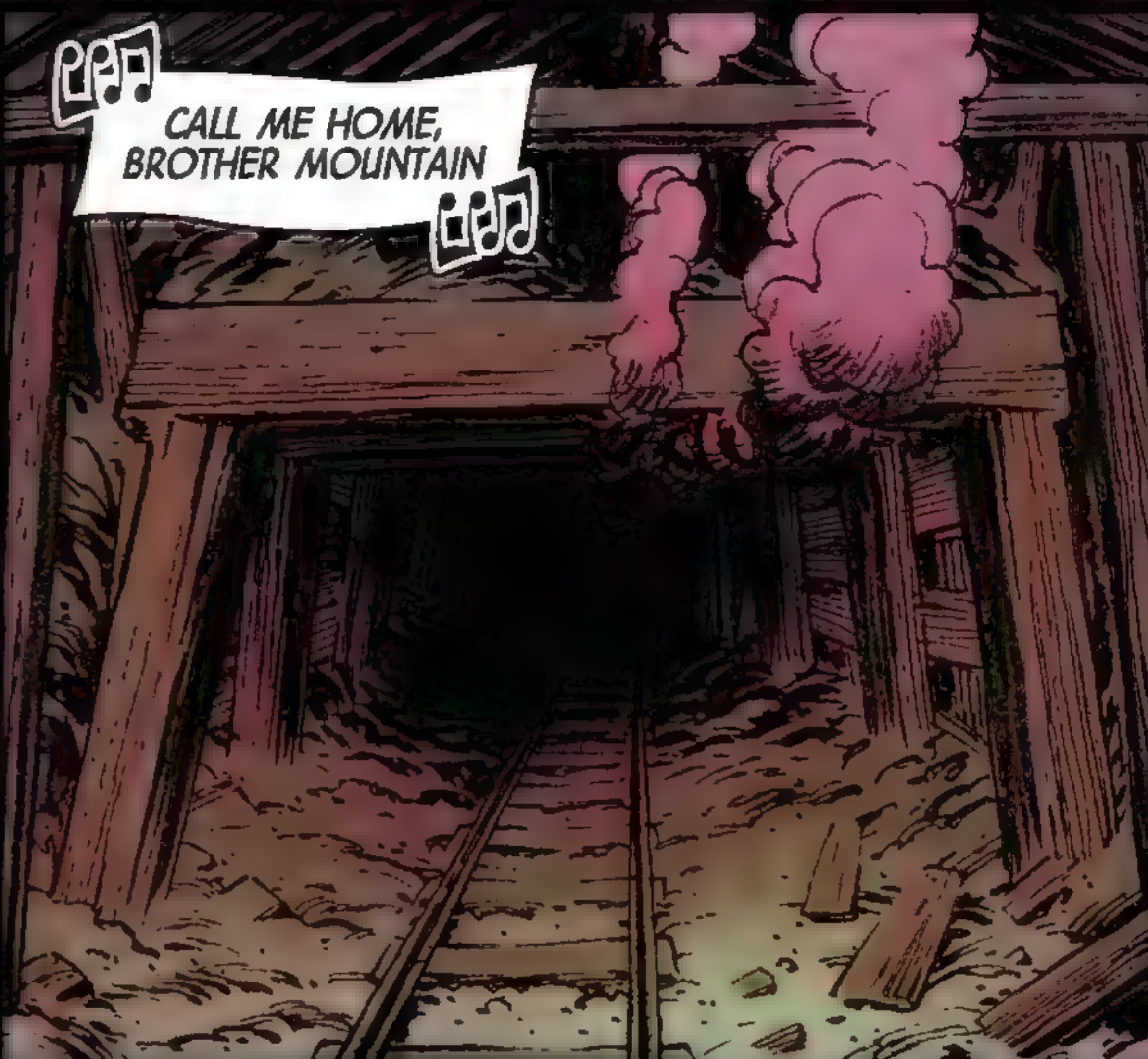


FOR YOU'LL SEE
ME AGAIN IN THESE
HALLS OF STONE



WHERE OUR
BROTHER WAITS
FOR THEE.





CALL ME HOME,
BROTHER MOUNTAIN

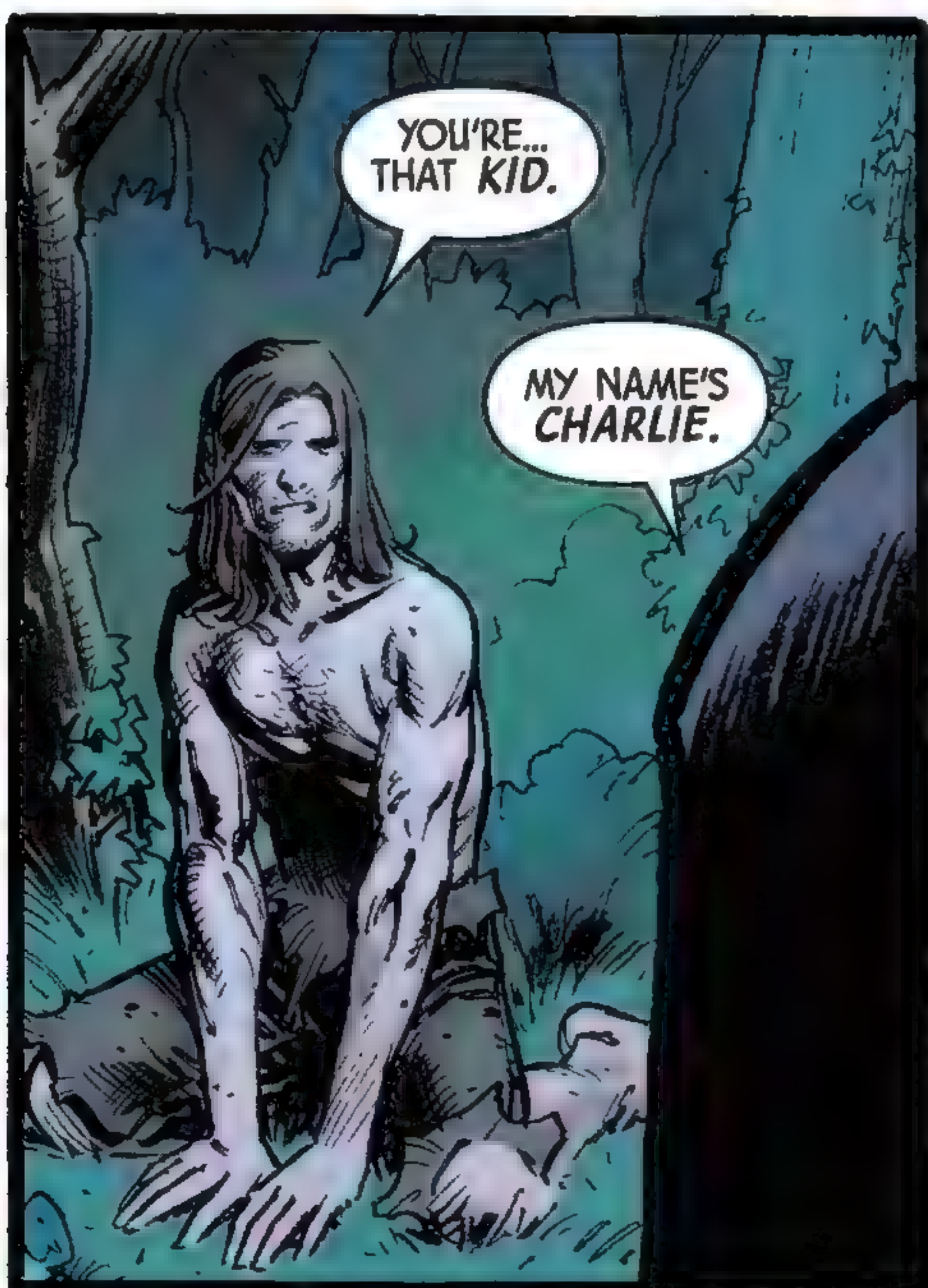


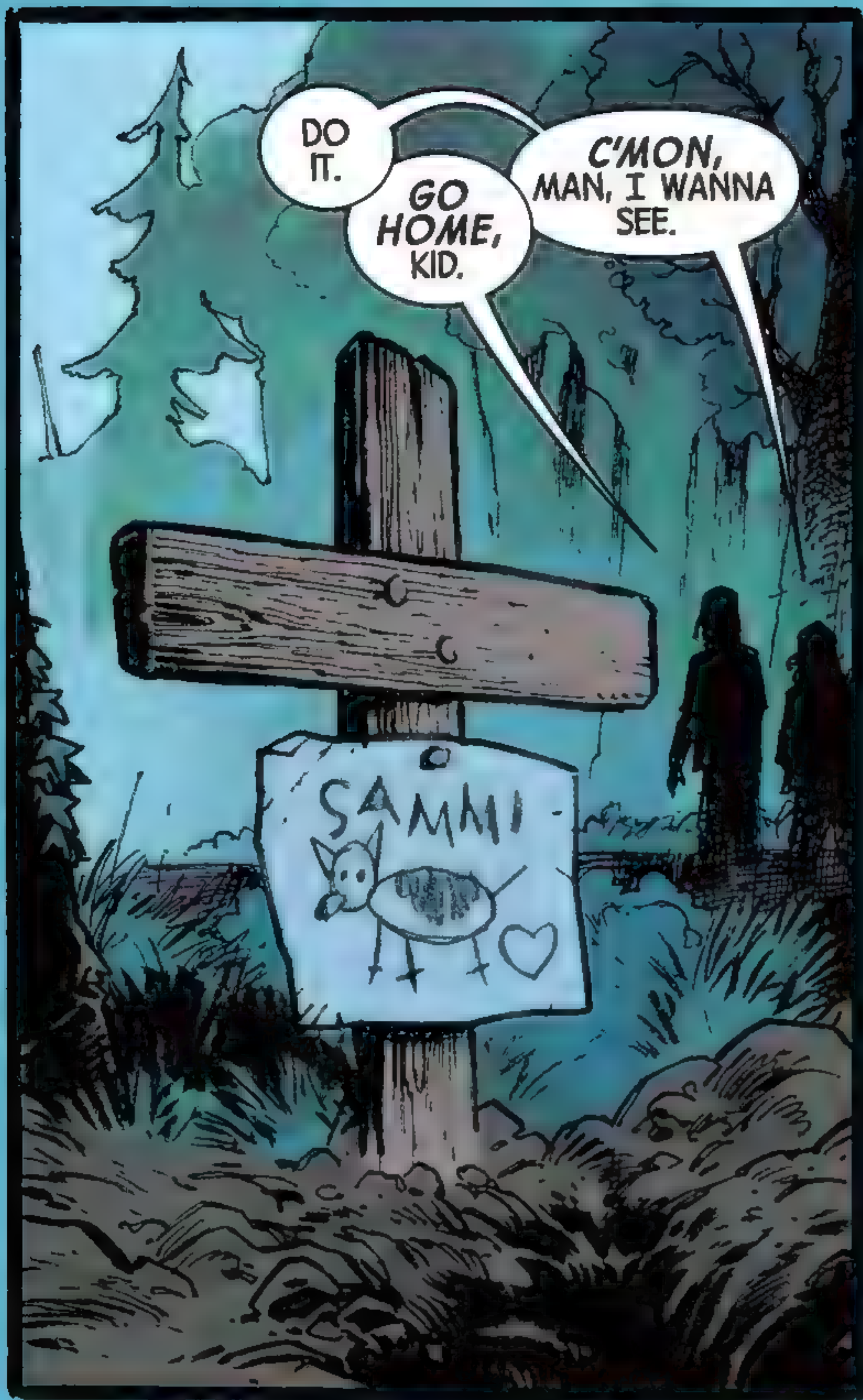
TO THE HALL
WHERE WE ALL
LONG TO GO



CALL ME HOME,
KINDLY MOUNTAIN

♪♪ LET ME BE ONE WITH THEE DOWN BELOW. ♪♪





DO IT.

GO HOME, KID.

C'MON, MAN, I WANNA SEE.



AND I WANT YOU NOT TO GET DEAD. GO HOME. FORGET ABOUT HULK.

YOU TALK ABOUT "HULK" LIKE IT'S SOMEONE ELSE. THAT'S KINDA WEIRD.



I CAN'T BELIEVE A SKINNY NERD LIKE YOU TURNS INTO THE INCREDIBLE HULK.



YOU CHANGE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY, RIGHT?



WHAP!

OW!



WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM, KID?! ARE YOU TRYING TO COMMIT SUICIDE-BY-HULK?

I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR DAMN--



--LIFE.



UH...
HEY, OLD-
TIMER.

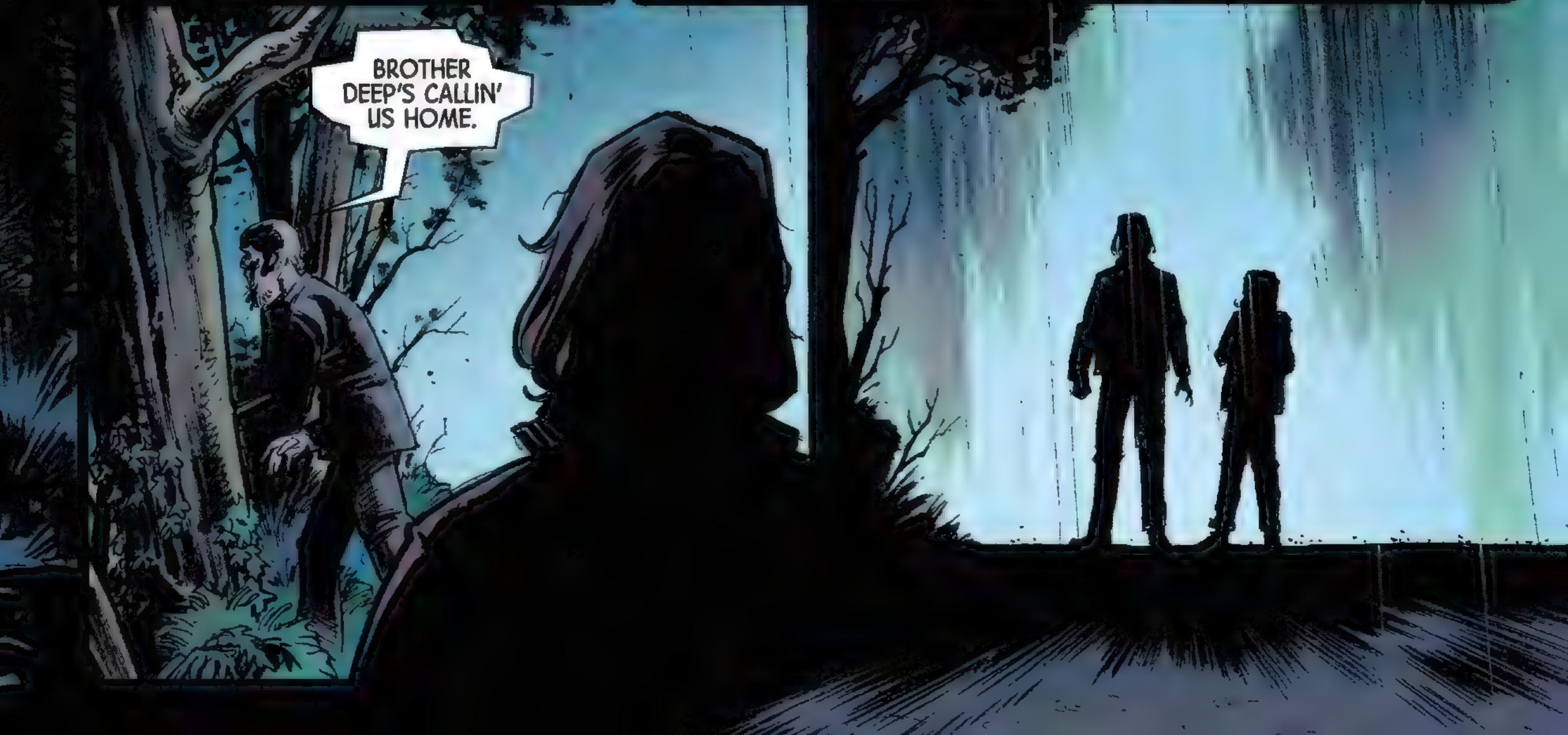
WHAT
BRINGS YOU
OUT THIS
WAY?

GOIN'
HOME TO RED
CREEK.

GOIN' TO SEE
SISTER SADIE...
'N' BROTHER
DEEP.



BROTHER
DEEP'S CALLIN'
US HOME.



KRAKOOOOOOOM

SO,
UM...THAT
THING.

WITH
THE DEAD
GUY.

IS THAT...
SOMETHING THAT
HAPPENS AROUND
YOU A LOT?

IN MY EXPERIENCE,
MONSTERS HAVE
A WAY OF FINDING
EACH OTHER.

WHAT'RE
YOU *DOING*
HERE, KID?

IS THAT
*CAPTAIN
AMERICA* PATCH
JUST FOR
THE PRETTY
COLORS?



WHAT
COULD A *CAP* FAN
POSSIBLY WANT FROM
THE *HULK*?

I MEAN...
CAP HAD *BUCKY* BACK
IN THE DAY. *HULK'S* AN
AVENGER, TOO, ISN'T
HE?



SOMETIMES HEROES NEED
PARTNERS, AND...THEN
SOMETIMES THEIR
PARTNERS GROW UP
TO BE--

OH MY
GOD, KID! IS THIS
AN *AVENGERS*
TRYOUT?!

HULK'S NOT
A HERO, AND HE
DEFINITELY DOESN'T
WANT A *SIDEKICK*!



HAVE YOU NOT BEEN HEARING
ME?! *GO HOME!* YOU'RE
NOT SAFE HERE!

HEY, MAN,
EASY!

HE'S TRYING
TO COME THROUGH
ALL THE TIME NOW,
AND I DON'T KNOW
HOW LONG I
CAN--

HEY! I SAID
WATCH--





THEY'RE ALL
LOOKIN' FOR THE
FRACTURED SON.
THAT MEANS THEY'RE
COMIN' FOR YOU,
TOO.



CAN'T
OUTRUN FAMILY,
GIRL.
NEITHER
OF YOU CAN.

CALL ME
HOME KINDLY
MOUNTAIN

DADDY?
...WH-WHAT'S
THAT SINGING?



THAT'S
BROTHER
DEEP.

LET ME BE
ONE WITH THEE
DOWN BELOW



SNAP

H-HULK?
BANNER?



TELLIN'
LIES ABOUT ME,
CHARLENE.

ELDEST
WOKE HIM. HIM
AND ALL THE
REST.

BROTHER
DEEP'S FAMILY,
TOO, SEE.

THEY'RE ALL
LOOKIN' FOR THE
FRACTURED SON.
THAT MEANS THEY'RE
COMIN' FOR YOU,
TOO.



I--I AIN'T
SCARED O' YOU
ANYMORE.
I KICKED
YOUR ASS LAST
TIME.



I'M
STRONG
NOW.



"STRONGEST
ONE THERE IS."

CHARLIE!

CHARLIE,
WHERE ARE
YOU?

KID
CAN'T HEAR
YOU.

HULK?

HULK, I'M
SORR--

KRRRR

YOU
THOUGHT I'D
LET YOU HAVE A
FRIEND, AFTER
WHAT YOU
DID?

AFTER
BETTY?

ACK

SP SH

I WON'T
FORGET,
BANNER.

I'LL
NEVER
STOP.

→PULUHHHHHHHHH←

I'LL
ALWAYS FIND
YOU.

AND
SOON...

...I'LL
BE ALL
THAT'S LEFT
OF YOU.



!!!

BWIP
BWIP



→SIGH←
GREAT.

BWIP



HNHH?
WHUHP...
BANNER?

A COP
JUST PULLED
UP. I'LL
HANDLE IT.



Y'ALL
THINKIN'
TO SPEND THE
NIGHT
HERE?

SORRY,
OFFICER. WE...HAD
SOME CAR TROUBLE,
AND WERE TRYING TO
GET TO THE NEXT
TOWN WHEN THE
RAIN PICKED UP.

THIS MAN
YOUR DADDY,
GIRL?



NO, HE'S...
UM... WE'RE
FRIENDS.

UH-
HUH.



LISTEN, IT
AIN'T SAFE OUT
HERE BY YOURSELVES.
WHY DON'TCHA LET
ME GIVE YOU A
RIDE.

WE'RE ALL
RIGHT, OFFICER.
BUT THANKS.



IT'S
NOT SAFE,
I SAID.



SOME *NUTCASE* BURNED A
DINER TO THE GROUND A
COUPLE NIGHTS AGO. I'M
SUPPOSED TO *BRING IN*
SUSPICIOUS FOLKS.

BUT YOU TWO
SEEM LIKE THE RIGHT
SORT TO ME, SO LET'S
GET YOU SOMEPLACE
SAFE, WHADDYA
SAY?



C'MON,
BANNER. BRING
HIM OUT. DO
SOMETHING.

SHH.

THERE'S A
REAL NICE, QUIET
LITTLE TOWN JUST
UP THE ROAD.



RED CREEK,
WHERE I WAS BORN
AND RAISED.

GOOD,
GOD-FEARING
PEOPLE THERE...

"...AND REVIVALS AT
RED CREEK BAPTIST
AIN'T TO BE MISSED."

TO HIM BE THE
GLORY, TO HIM BE
THE GLORY, TO HIM BE
THE GLORY IN THE
GREAT--BE-LOW

YES, TO
HIM BE THE
GLORY.

TO
HIM BE THE
GLORY.

TO
HIM BE THE
GLORY--

--BELOW.

HERE WE ALL
ARE AGAIN, BROTHERS
'N' SISTERS. TOGETHER
IN FELLOWSHIP,
AMEN?

AMEN.

AMEN,
NOW.

AMEN.

THE DAY'S FINALLY
COME THAT WE ALWAYS
SUNG AND PRAYED
FOR.

OUR DAY OF
RESURRECTION,
HALLELUJAH!

HALLELUJAH,
NOW!

PRAISE
GOD BELOW.

PRAISE
GOD.

WHEN I WAS
LITTLE AND DADDY SET
OFF TO WORK, HE'D KISS
ME ON THE FOREHEAD AND
SAY HE WAS GOIN' TO
SEE OL' **BROTHER
DEEP**.

Y'ALL REMEMBER
THOSE DAYS? WHEN
THE COAL FLOWED DOWN
THE MOUNTAIN LIKE WINE,
FOOD ON EVERY
TABLE?

AMEN!

THE BLESSINGS
OF BROTHER DEEP
WERE BOUGHT
DEAR SOME
YEARS.

SOME FOLKS
WE LOST IN CAVE-INS,
OTHERS IN A SICK BED,
BUT **HALLELUJAH**,
BROTHER DEEP'S
BLESSINGS ALWAYS
CAME.

THE NATIVES
WHO LIVED HERE
BEFORE US WAS
DIGGERS, TOO.

THEY
HAD **THEIR**
OWN STORIES
ABOUT OUR
MOUNTAIN.

ABOUT A
GOD SO CRUEL AND
STRONG, HIS BROTHER
GODS TOOK HIS WINGS,
CAST HIM TO EARTH
AND TRAPPED HIM
IN STONE.

SOME SAID
THAT OLD DEAD GOD
CALLED TO THEM IN THEIR
DREAMS, CALLIN' 'EM INTO
THE CAVES TO SET
HIM FREE.

THEY DUG TILL
THEIR TOOLS BROKE
AND THEIR FINGERS BLEED
AND THEIR BACKS GAVE OUT,
TRYIN' WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT
TO QUIET THE VOICE THAT
DROVE 'EM THERE.

THEY'RE ALL
GONE NOW, POOR
HEATHEN DEVILS. IF ONLY
THEY'D HAD **BROTHER
DEEP** TO GIVE 'EM
THE **TRUE GOSPEL**,
AMEN?

AMEN,
SISTER
SADIE!

GOD IS
GOOD!

BROTHER DEEP'S BEEN RESURRECTED, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BY ONE OF HIS OWN. ONE NAMED **ELDEST**. AND US ALONG WITH HIM, TO **SERVE** HIM.

BUT THIS DAY OF RESURRECTION AIN'T JUST OURS. IT BELONGS TO **THE ENEMY** AS WELL.

BROTHER DEEP'S ENEMY IS BORN AGAIN FROM HIS **GREEN DOOR**, AND HE WALKS AMONG US!

AND TO SEND HIM BACK TO PERDITION, WE ARE CALLED UPON TO DO WHAT WE **ALWAYS** DONE!

WE ARE CALLED UPON TO **DIG!**

TO **FREE BROTHER DEEP** AND BRING HIM INTO HIS KINGDOM...

...THAT HE MAY **SMITE DOWN** THE ENEMY AND RULE ON HIGH AS IN THE TIME BEFORE MAN!

BROTHER DEEP'S TELLIN' ME SOMEONE **NEW** HAS JOINED US! BROTHER WILLIAM, WHO YOU GOT WITH YA?

NEW FRIENDS, SISTER SADIE. RAISED OUTSIDE THE LIGHT OF BROTHER DEEP, BUT GOOD FOLKS.

WELL, THAT'S FINE. DID YOU BRING 'EM TO **JOIN** OUR FELLOWSHIP?

SISTER, I BRUNG 'EM FOR THE **OFFERING**.

HEY!



CHARLIE!

YOU GUYS
DON'T EVEN
KNOW HOW BAD
YOU JUST
MESSED UP!

BANNER,
DO IT!!!



HULK.

HULK, I
REALLY NEED
YOU.

SAID THE GOD
ENTOMBED UNTO US,
THE SAINTS THOU BRINGEST
BEFORE ME ARE DOUBLY
BLESSED...



...FOR AS I
DRINK OF THEIR
BLOOD AND
BREATH...

HULK, COME ON!
THEY'RE GONNA
KILL THE GIRL!

YEAH.

...SO WILL
THEY DRINK
OF THE BLESSED
MOUNTAIN
FOREVER.

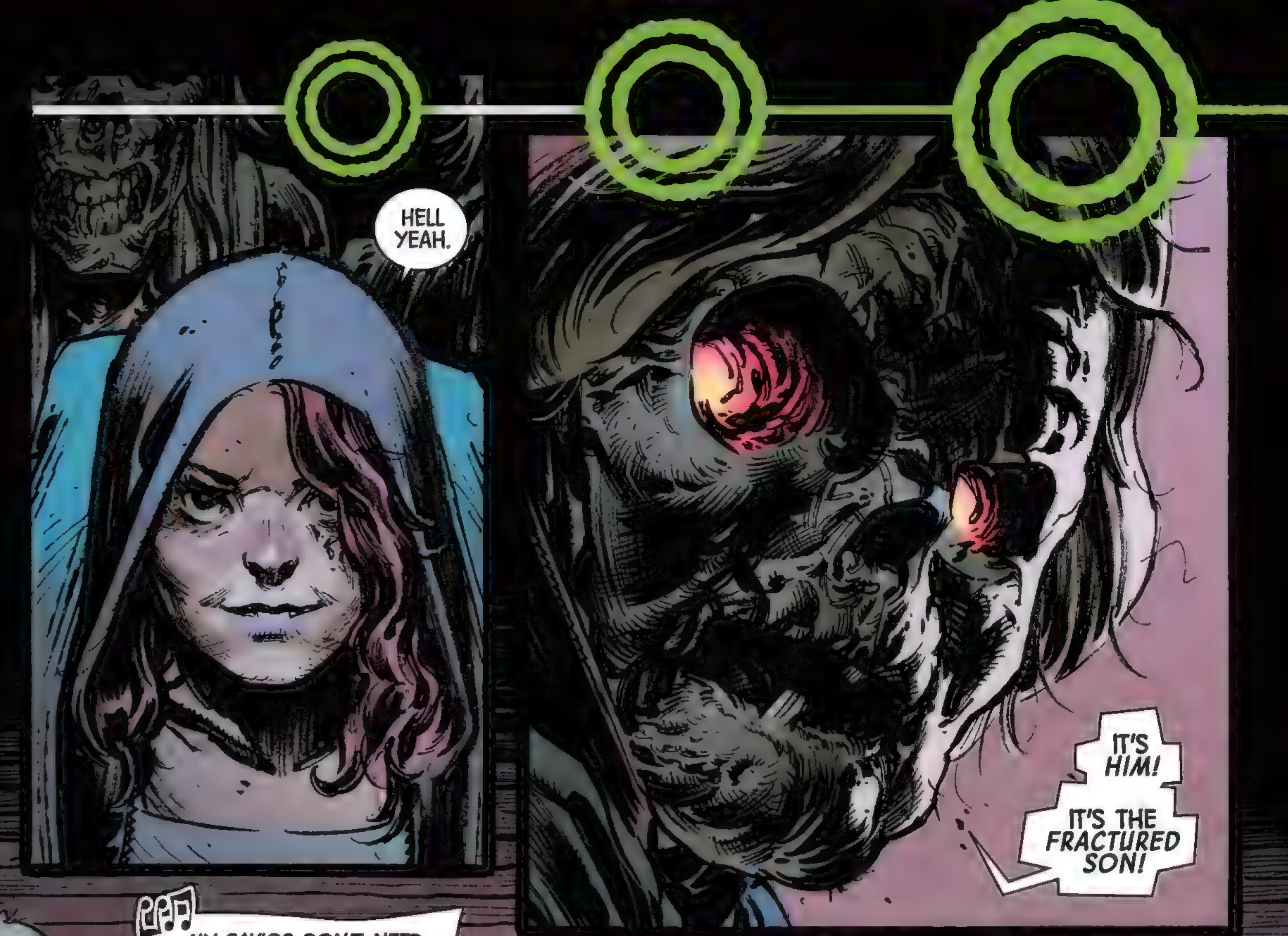
BUT FIRST
THEY'RE GONNA
KILL YOU.



THUD

AMEN.

⇒MMMP⇐



...TIL BELL
OF JUDGMENT
RINGS.



INcredible
HULK

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

PUNY HUMAN
BROUGHT *MONSTER*
OUT OF WATER!

NOW HULK
WILL *SMASH*
YOU BOTH!

TRIMPE
ADKINS

THE LURKER BENEATH LOCH FEAR!

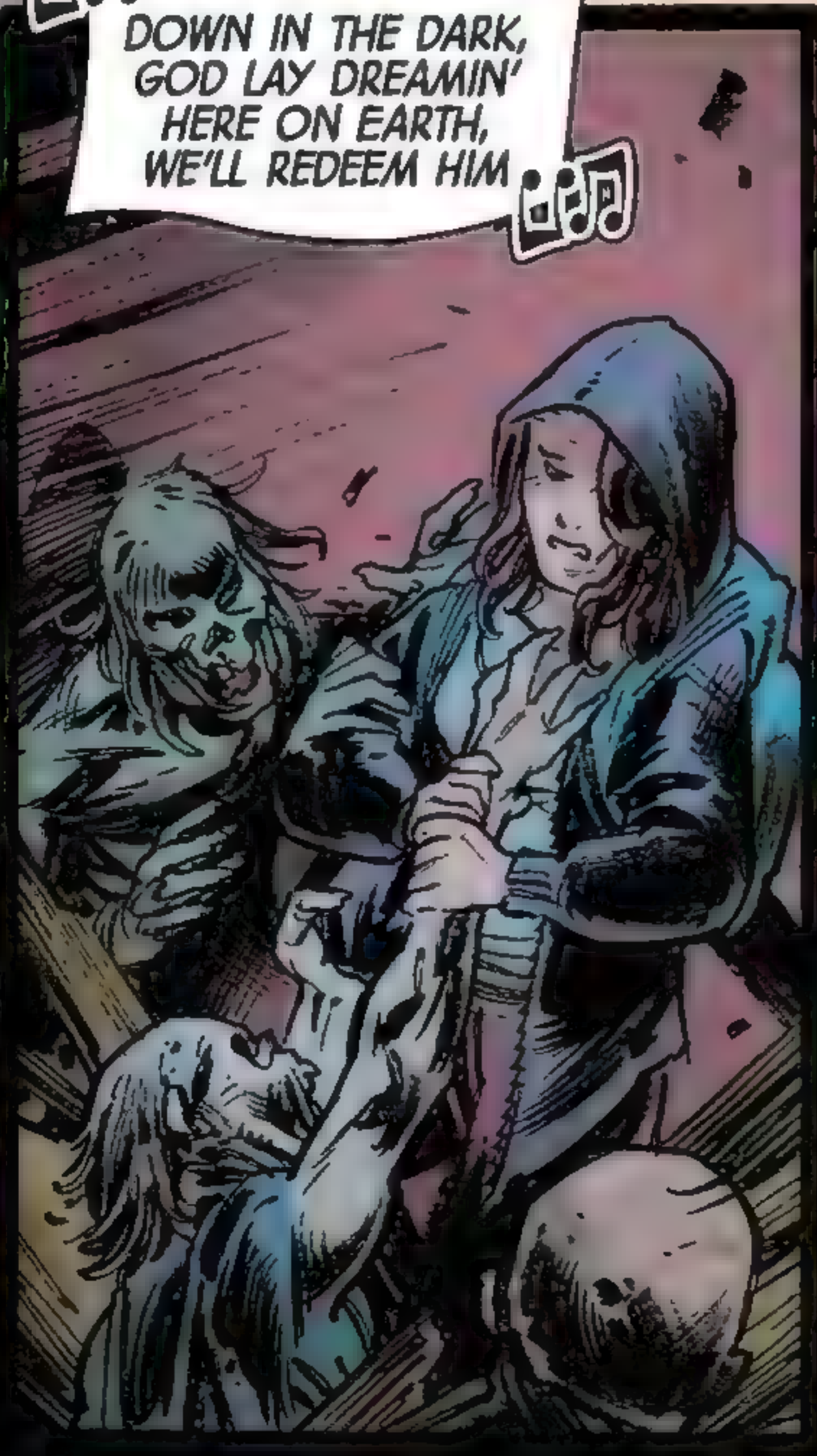




♪♪♪
DADDY SAY "GOD,"
MAMA SAY "PRAISE HIM"
DADDY SAY "LORD,"
MAMA SAY "RAISE HIM" ♪♪♪

♪♪♪
DADDY SAY
"DIG, DIG, DIG,
'TIL HE COME
INTO HIS OWN" ♪♪♪

♪♪♪
DOWN IN THE DARK,
GOD LAY DREAMIN'
HERE ON EARTH,
WE'LL REDEEM HIM ♪♪♪



♪♪♪
GONNA PRAY
'TIL BROTHER CALLS
US HOME. ♪♪♪



'CAUSE TO HIM BE THE GLORY,
TO HIM BE THE GLORY,
TO HIM BE THE GLORY IN
THE GREAT--BE--LOW

YES, TO HIM BE THE GLORY,
TO HIM BE THE GLORY,

TO HIM BE
THE GLORY...
BELOW.

GROWWW

HULK!!!

HRRN.

WAAAAH

DOOF

WAAAAH



WAIT!
TAKE ME WITH
YOU!

NO.



YOU'RE
BANNER'S
FRIEND.

WHAT?! NO!
BANNER TRIED
TO SEND ME
AWAY!



I SAW YOU
CHANGE. I--I
WANT TO BE
LIKE YOU.

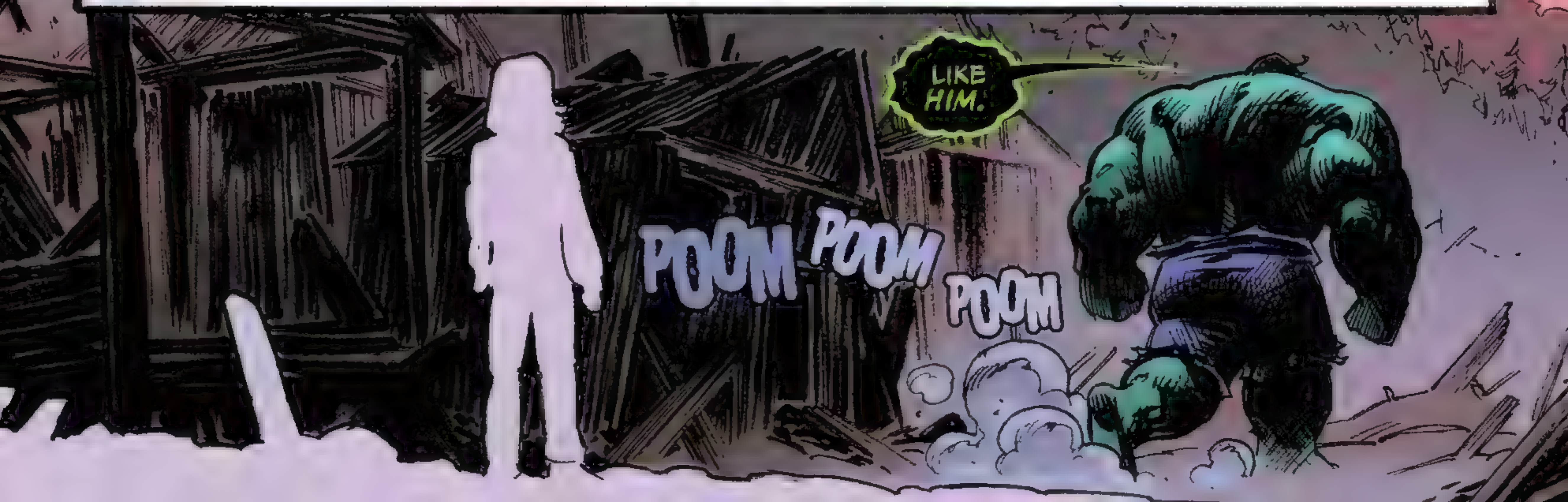
CAN YOU...
MAKE ME
STRONG,
LIKE Y--

NO.



YOU'RE
WEAK.
AFRAID.

PUNY.



LIKE
HIM.

POOM POOM
POOM



"WEAK"?



I BEEN FOLLOWING YOU FOR DAYS, WITH BANNER TRYING TO SEND ME HOME EVERY TWO SECONDS! AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA DITCH ME TOO?!

'CAUSE I GOT SCARED WHEN A BUNCH 'A CHURCH ZOMBIES TRIED TO DRAG ME TO HELL?!



#%\$& YOU!!!

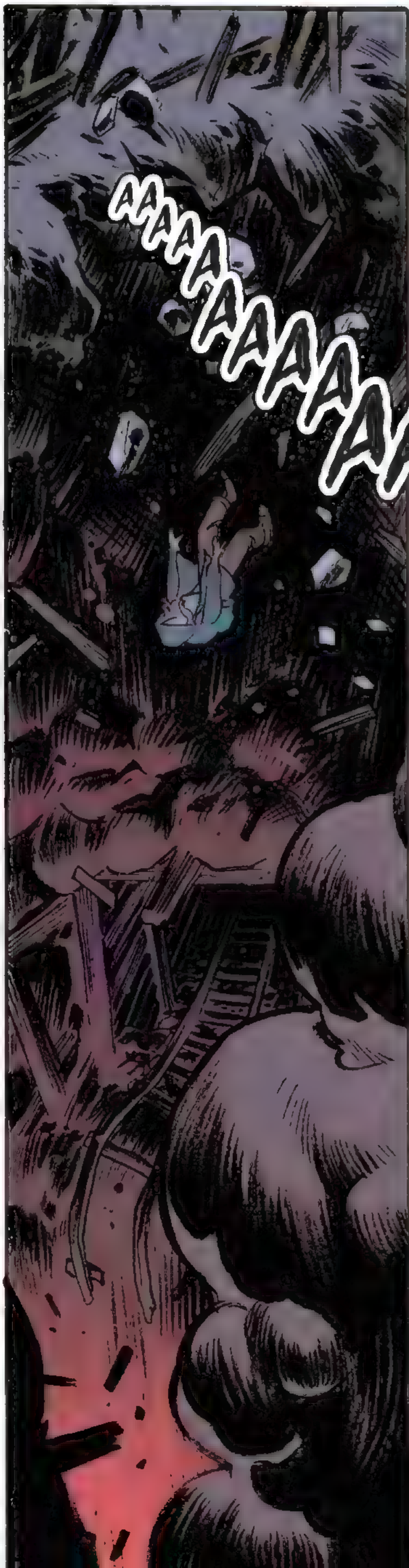
JUST 'CAUSE I'M NOT SOME STUPID, GREEN, EIGHT-HUNDRED-POUND JERK DOESN'T MAKE ME WEA--

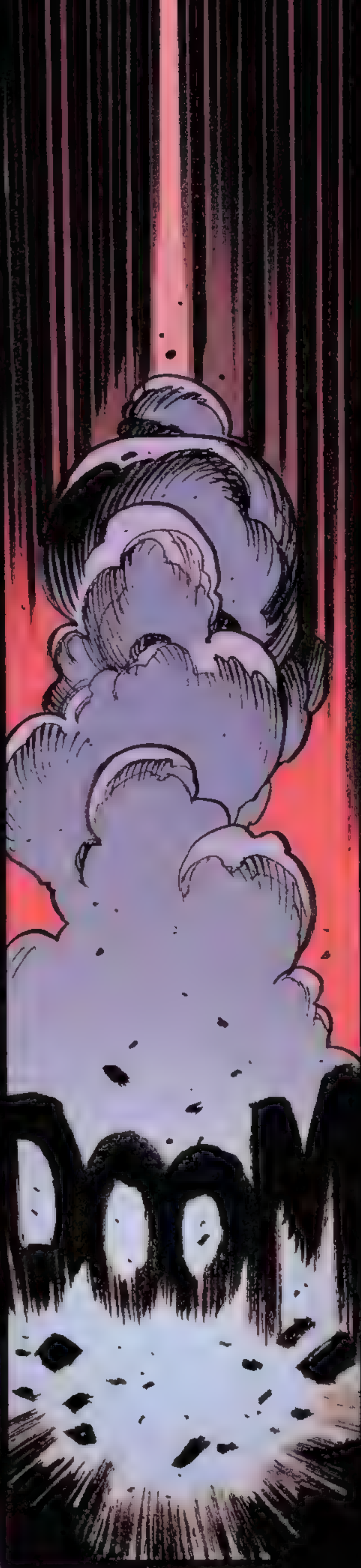


CRACK

...OH GOD.

CRACK







WH-WHAT'S
ALL THAT ON
THE WALLS?



DON'T
CARE. WE'RE
LEAVING.

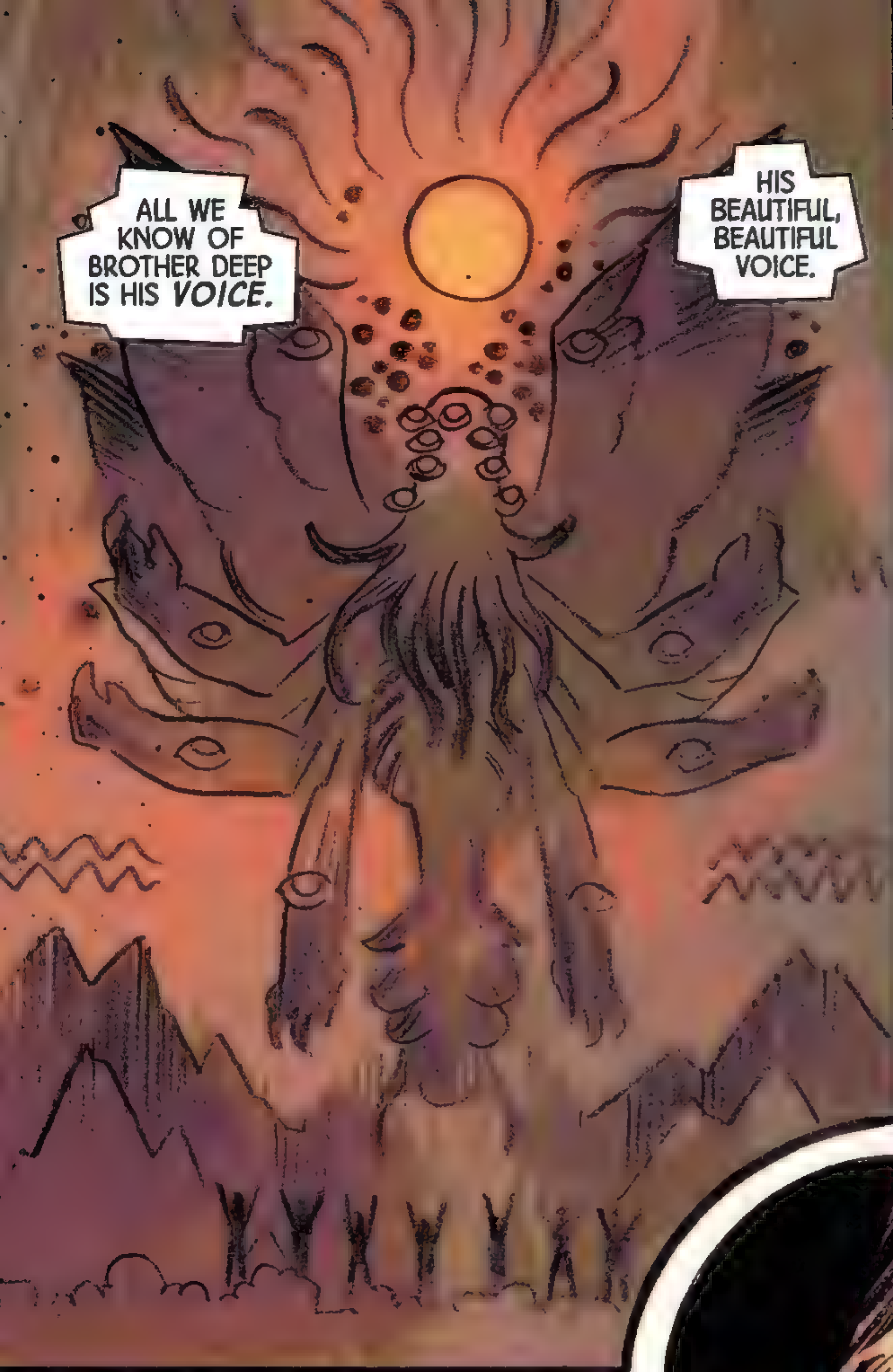


IT'S THE
STORY OF
BROTHER DEEP,
GIRL.

BUT
THERE'S NO
ONE LEFT TO
READ IT.

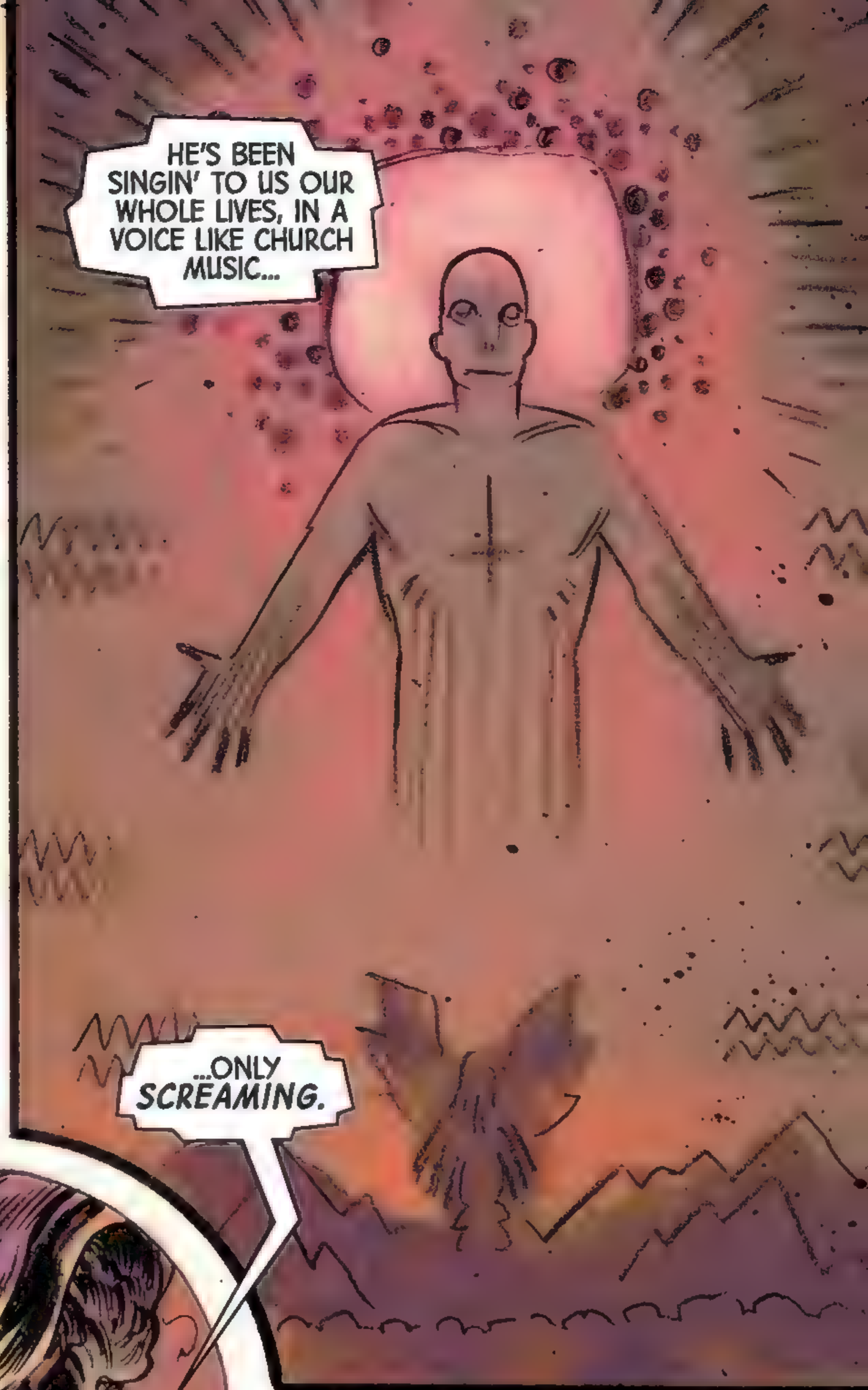


IT WAS
WRITTEN BY
THEM WHO'RE
GONE.



ALL WE
KNOW OF
BROTHER DEEP
IS HIS *VOICE*.

HIS
BEAUTIFUL,
BEAUTIFUL
VOICE.



HE'S BEEN
SINGIN' TO US OUR
WHOLE LIVES, IN A
VOICE LIKE CHURCH
MUSIC...

...ONLY
SCREAMING.



HOWLIN' FOR
REVENGE AGAINST
THE GOLDEN GOD
WHO RIPPED HIM
APART BUT LEFT
HIM ALIVE.



WE *STILL*
HEAR HIM, GIRL.
EVEN IN *DEATH*
WE HEAR HIM.

BLIND...
BURNING...

...SCREAMING.

YOU HEAR
HIM TOO NOW,
DON'T YOU?

HE'S SINGIN'
ABOUT Y'ALL
NOW.

ABOUT THE
FRACTURED
SON.

THE GOD WHO
BROKE HIM AND PUT
HIM HERE...HE HAD
GREEN EYES.
UNDERSTAND?

BROTHER
DEEP'S COMIN'
FOR YOU,
FRACTURED SON.

HIM...HIS
MOTHER...

...AND HER
ELDEST.

HALLELUJAH.





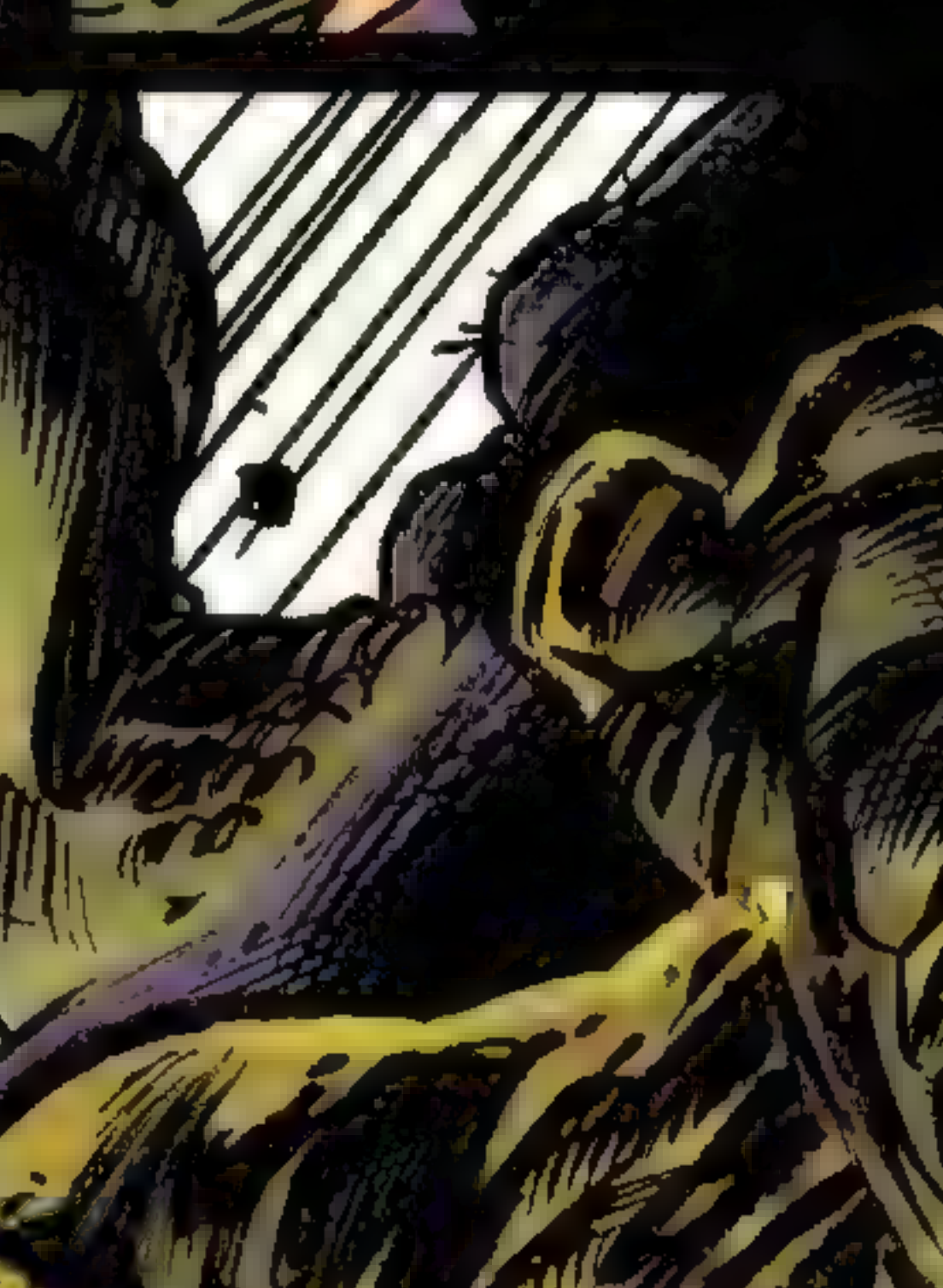
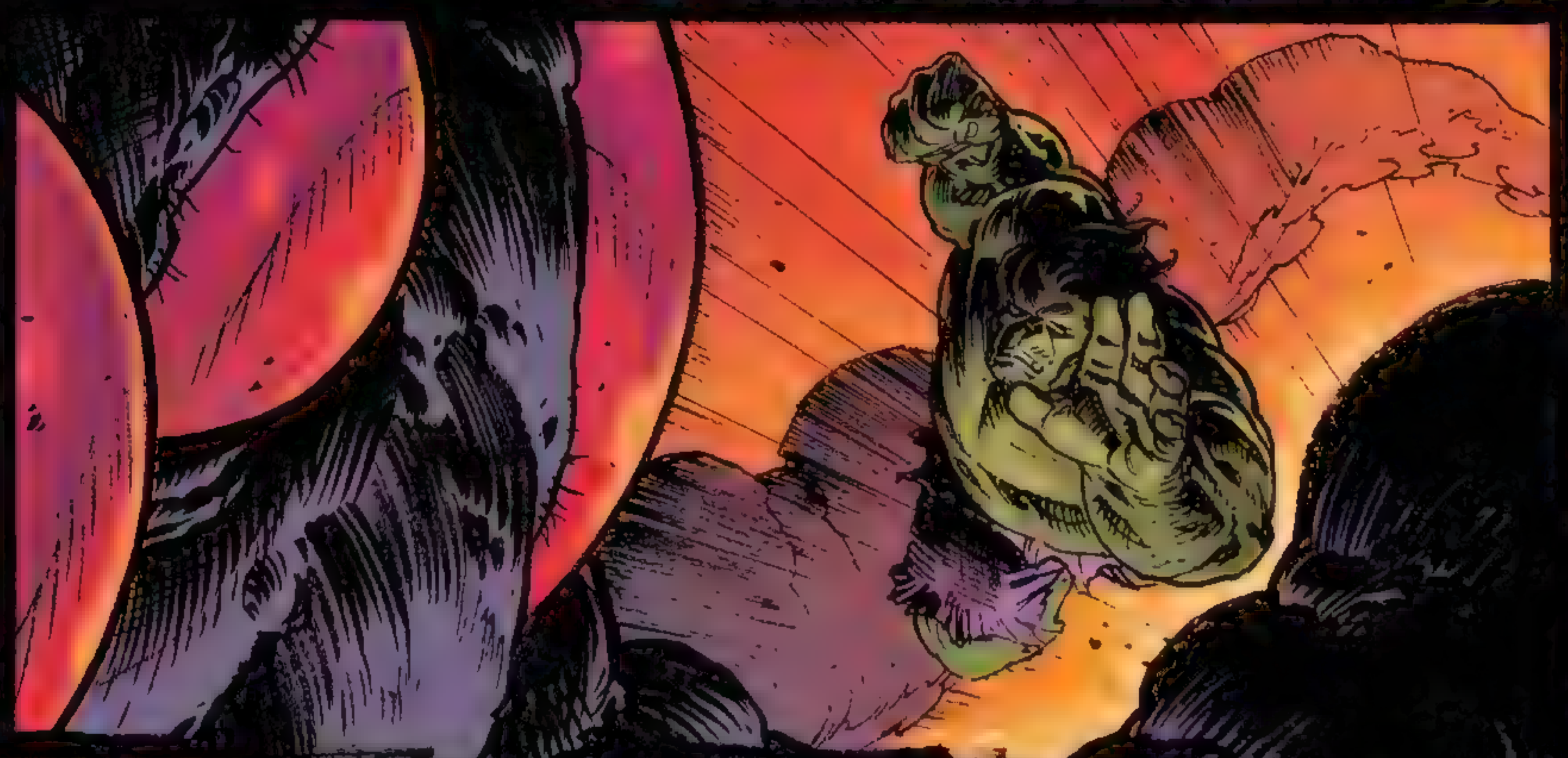
LEAVE
ME ALONE.

POW

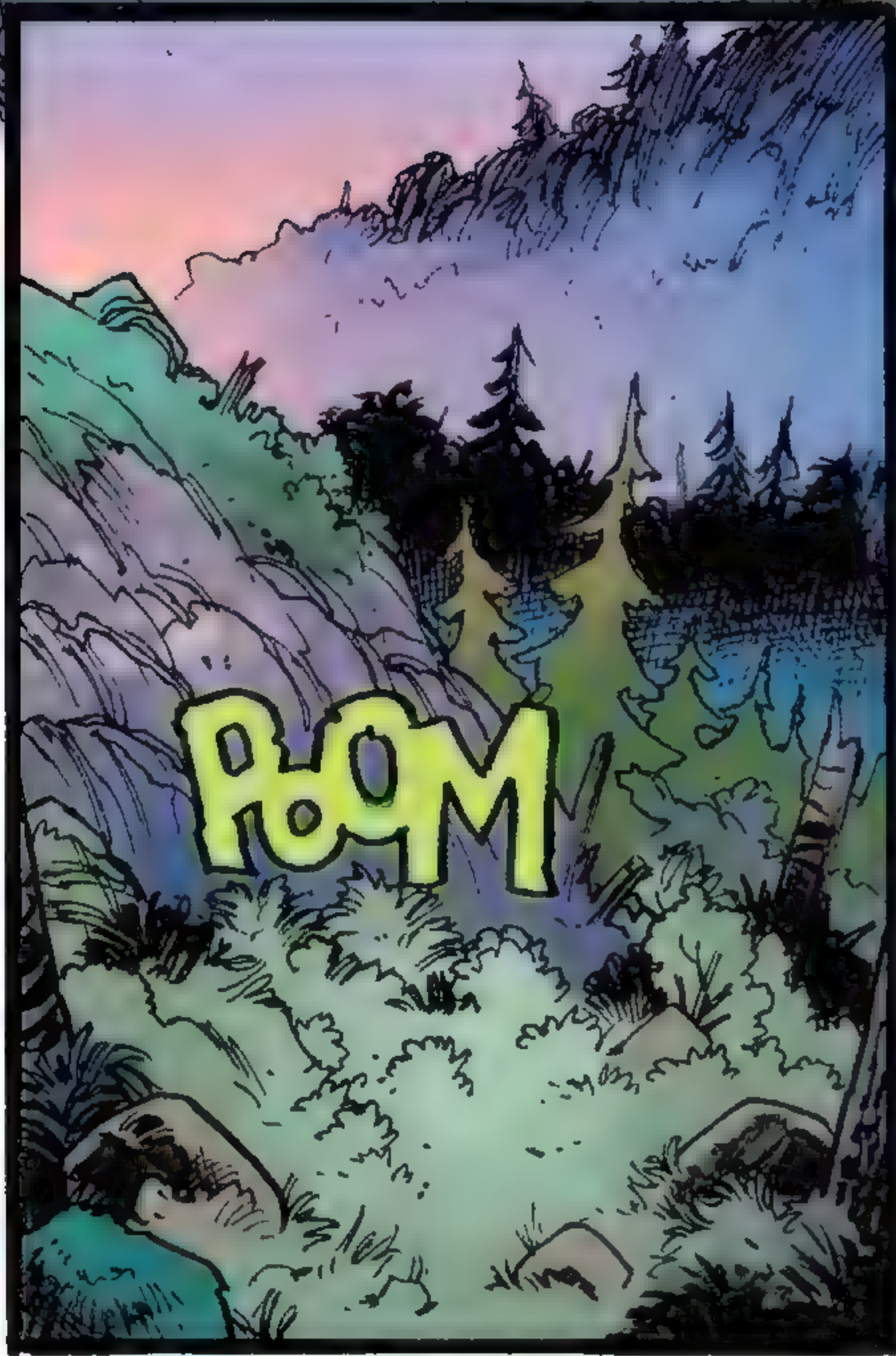
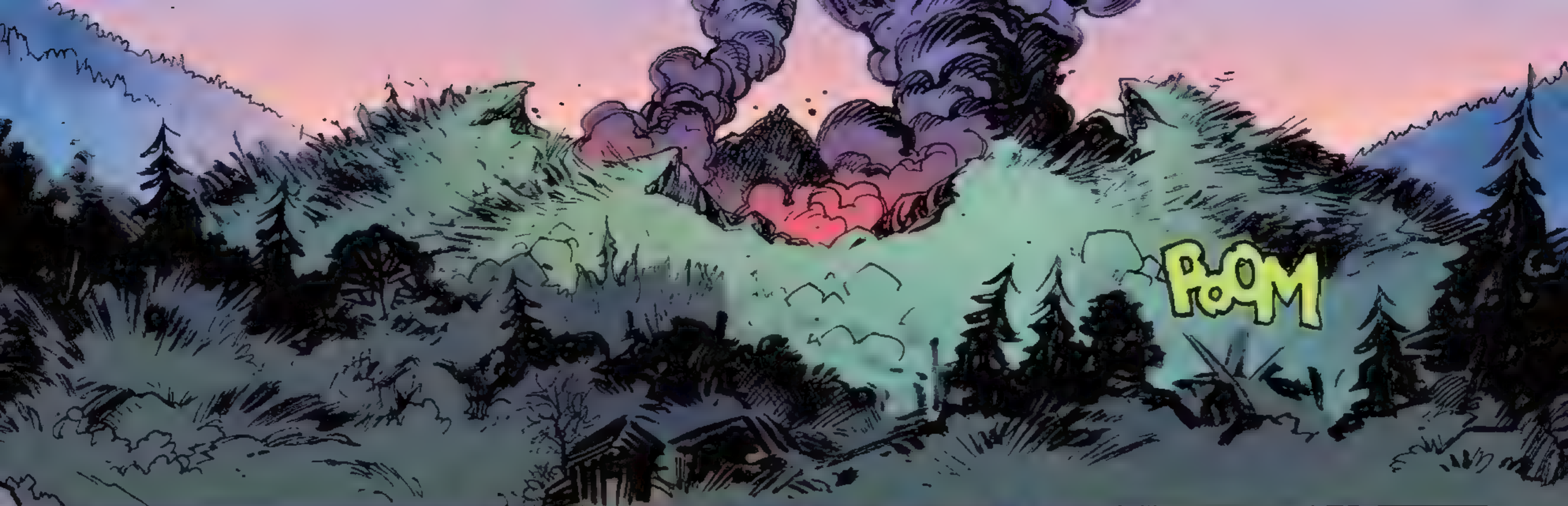
HRRRN.

FINE.

BOOM



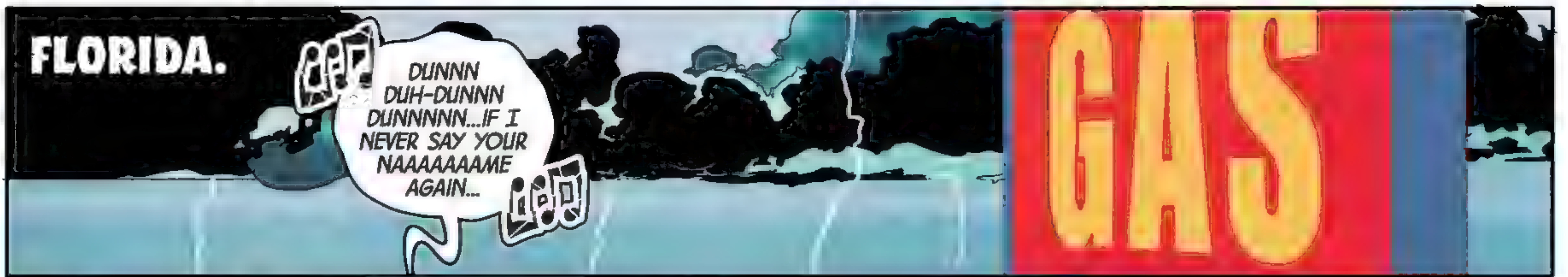














YOU
FINALLY
GONNA DRIVE
ME HOME?



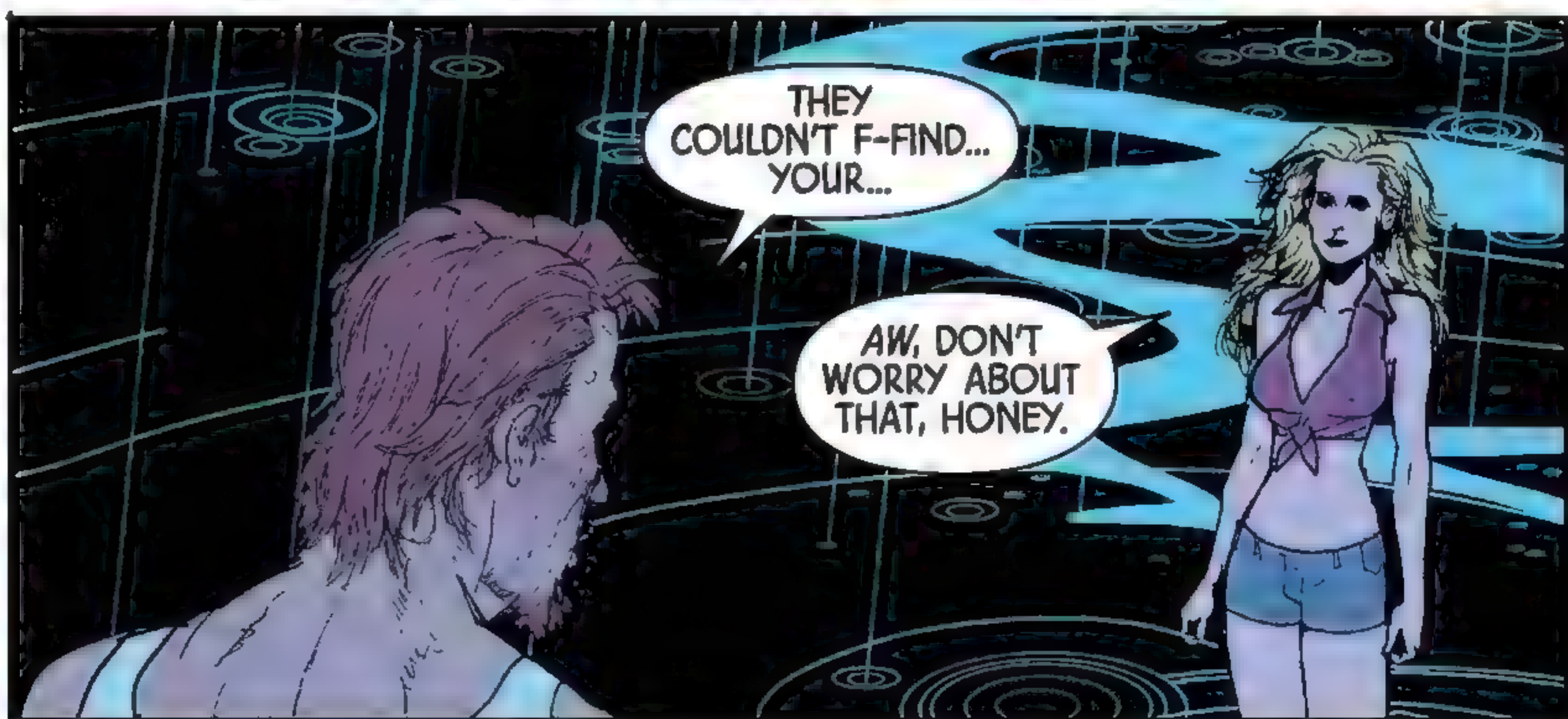
A-ASH...
ASHLEY?

C'MON,
JUKE, WHERE'S
THE TRUCK? IT'S
RAININ'.



THE TRUCK'S...
BABY, W-WE
WRECKED IT
THAT NIGHT.

TOTALED
IT, BACK WHEN
WE WERE KIDS.



THEY
COULDN'T F-FIND...
YOUR...

AW, DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
THAT, HONEY.



I'M STILL
PRETTY, AIN'T
I?



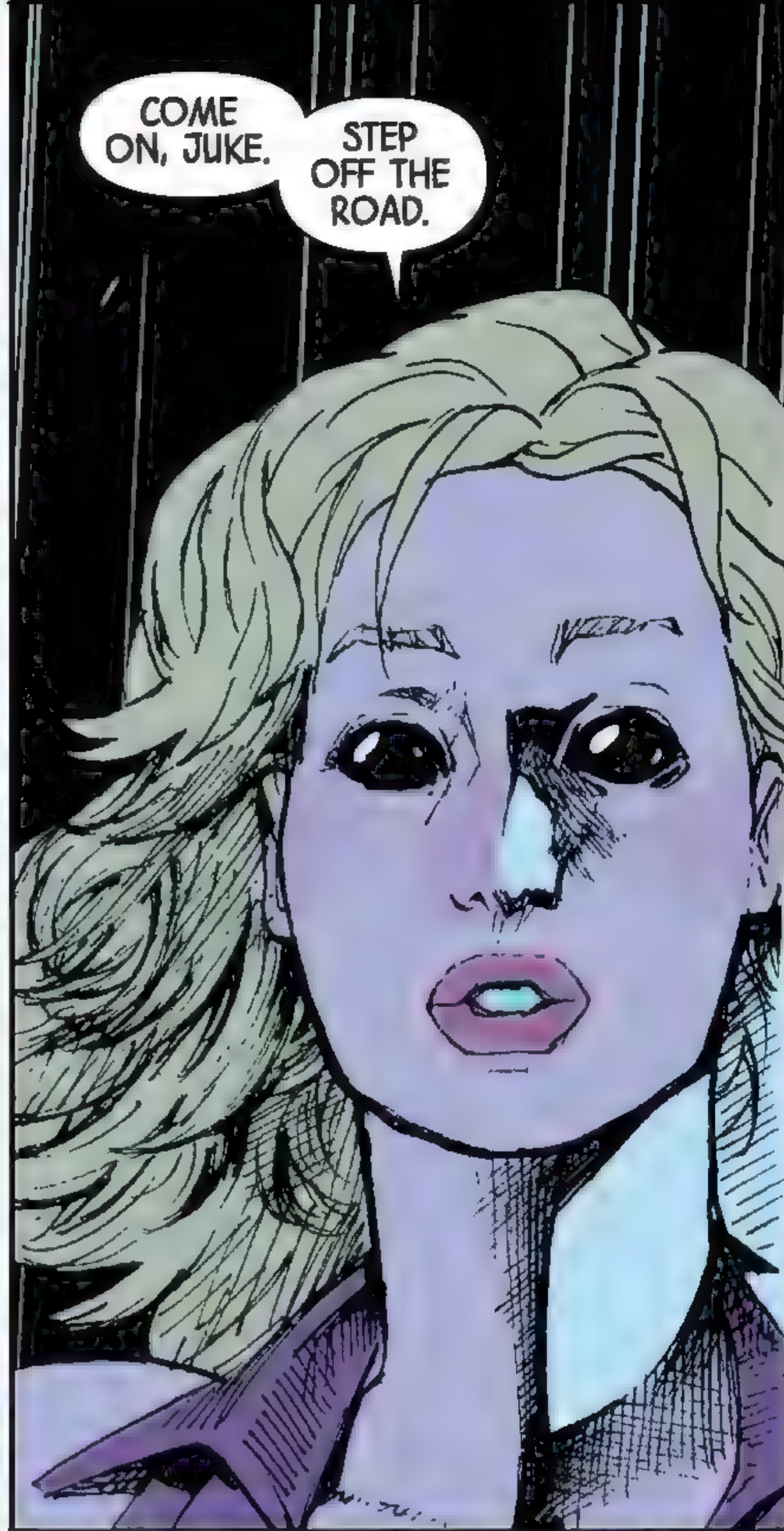
ASH...
→SNIFF←

DON'T
WORRY,
HONEY. COME
ON.

BABY,
I--I'M...I'M SO,
SO SORR--



LET'S DO IT
UNDER THE
STARS, LIKE WE
USED TO.



COME
ON, JUKE.

STEP
OFF THE
ROAD.



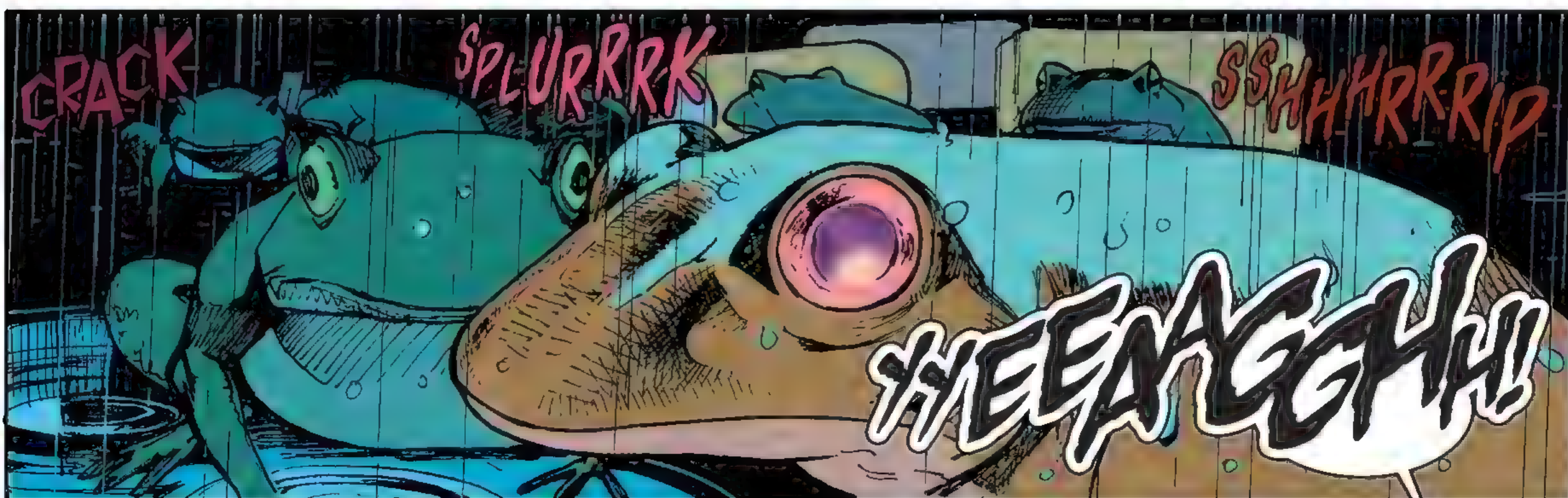
→SNIFF←
ASH, I--I'VE
MISSED YOU SO
BAD...

I'M NOT
GOIN' ANYWHERE
THIS TIME, BABY. I
PROMISE.

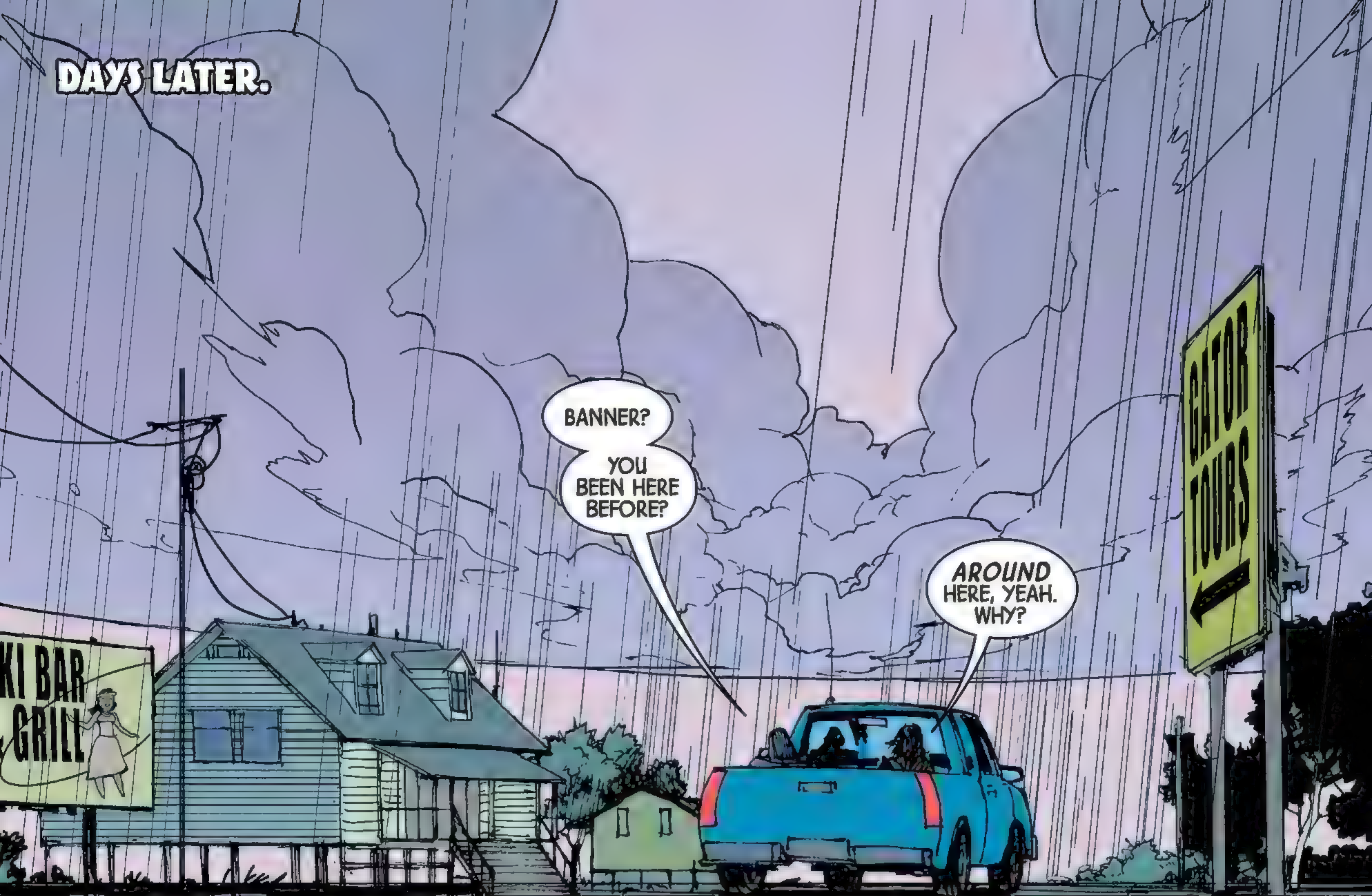


I'LL
NEVER
LEAVE.

SPSSSSSHHHHHH



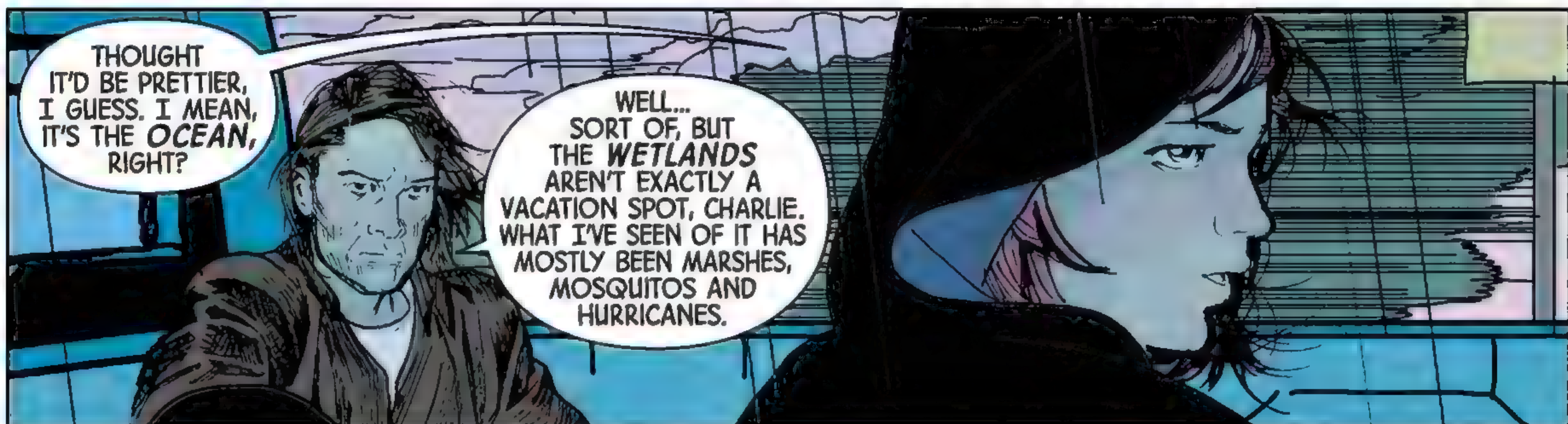
DAYS LATER.



BANNER?

YOU
BEEN HERE
BEFORE?

AROUND
HERE, YEAH.
WHY?



THOUGHT
IT'D BE PRETTIER,
I GUESS. I MEAN,
IT'S THE **OCEAN**,
RIGHT?

WELL...
SORT OF, BUT
THE **WETLANDS**
AREN'T EXACTLY A
VACATION SPOT, CHARLIE.
WHAT I'VE SEEN OF IT HAS
MOSTLY BEEN MARSHES,
MOSQUITOS AND
HURRICANES.



THE WHOLE
PLACE JUST SEEMS...
OFF.

YEAH.



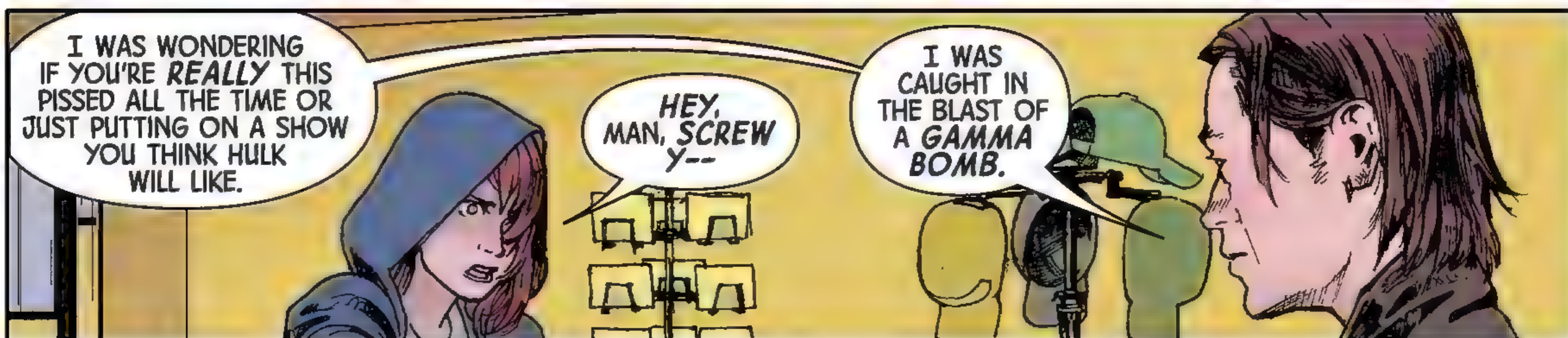
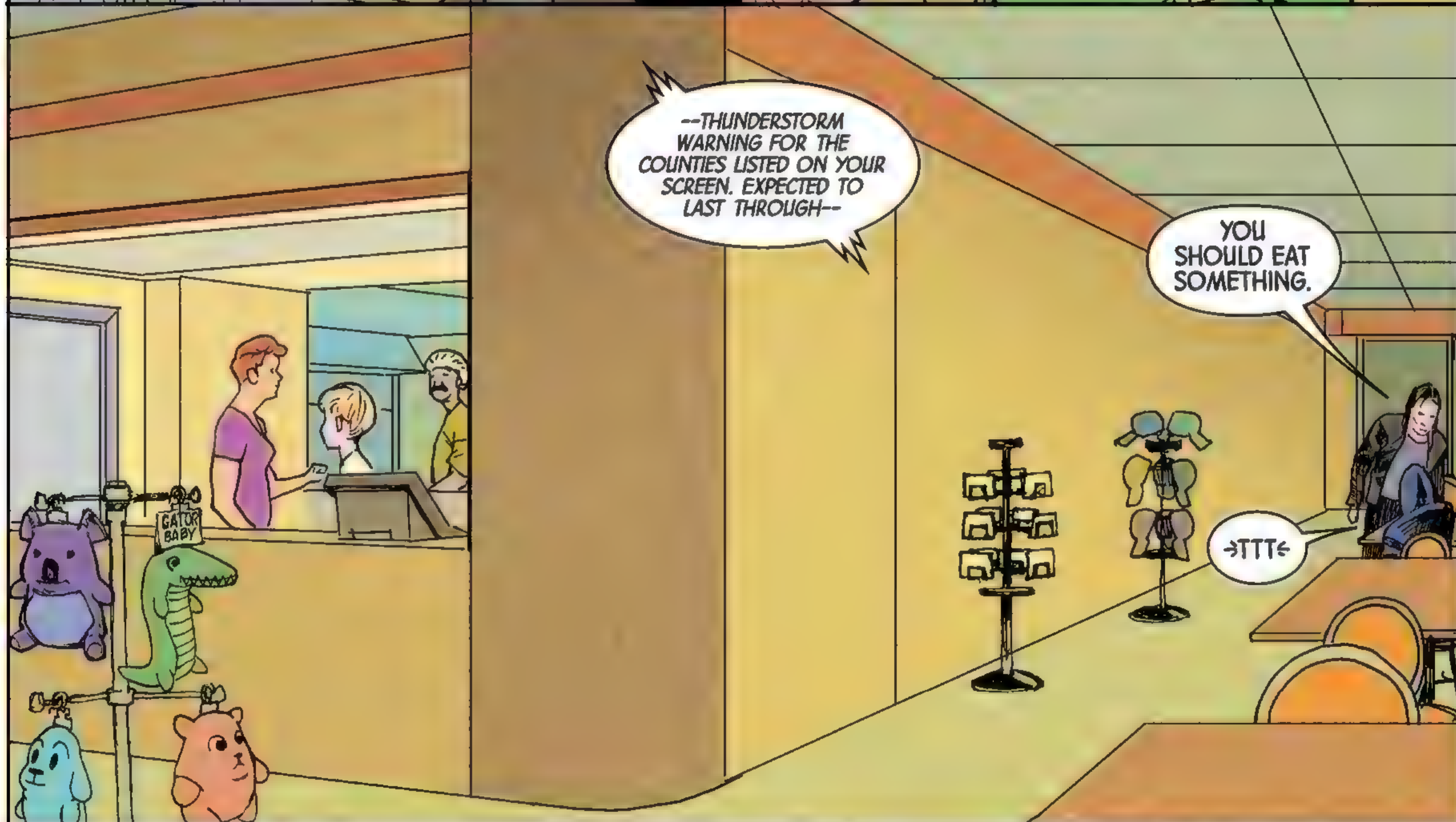
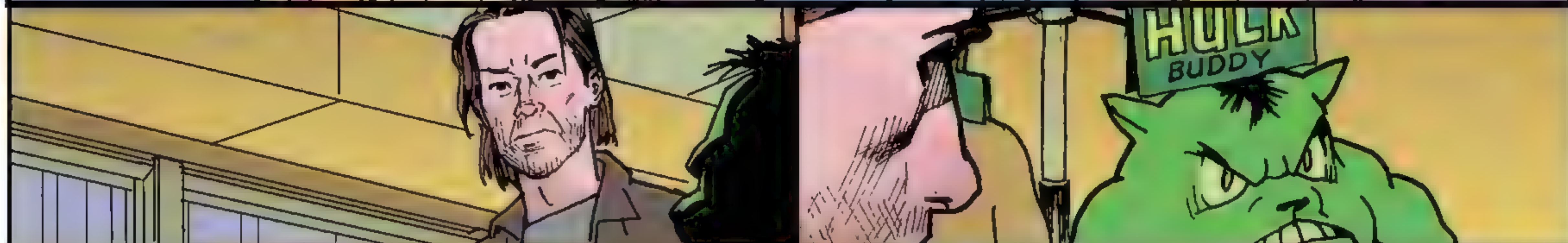
YEAH,
IT **DOES**,
DOESN'T
IT.



ME AND MY FRIEND WERE SUPPOSED
TO RUN AWAY TO FLORIDA. SPENT
MONTHS GETTING GRAMMA'S
MUSTANG RUNNING,
JUST FOR THAT.

YOU GOT
A BROKEN-DOWN
CLASSIC CAR
RUNNING? ALL BY
YOURSELF?







YOU PROBABLY
THOUGHT PROLONGED
EXPOSURE TO **HULK
HIMSELF** WOULD BE
ENOUGH, RIGHT? MAYBE
A **BLOOD INFUSION**
OR SOMETHING?

IT'S MORE
COMPLICATED
THAN THAT. YOU'RE
NOT GETTING
HULK POWERS.

**NOT
EVER.**

LOOK, I
DON'T BLAME YOU
FOR BEING MAD ALL
THE TIME. YOU'VE
OBVIOUSLY HAD A HARD
GO. YOU'RE JUST LOOKING
FOR A DAD, OR A
BROTHER OR
SOMETHING.

IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT YOU
DREW THE SHORTEST
STRAW **EVER** WITH
HULK AND ME.



I'VE LIVED ON THE ROAD MORE
THAN ONCE. BUT THIS TIME,
SOMETHING'S **WATCHING** US.
SISTER SADIE CALLED
IT "ELDEST."

IT'LL CATCH UP
TO US EVENTUALLY.
AND IF YOU'RE WITH
ME, YOU'LL BE
KILLED.

I KNOW BEING
AROUND HULK MAKES
YOU FEEL STRONG, AND
THAT YOU DON'T THINK
YOU CAN BE STRONG
WITHOUT HIM.

BUT YOU
DIDN'T NEED HULK
TO ESCAPE YOUR DAD,
OR TO REACH THE COAST.
YOU DID IT **YOURSELF.**
YOU **MADE** IT.

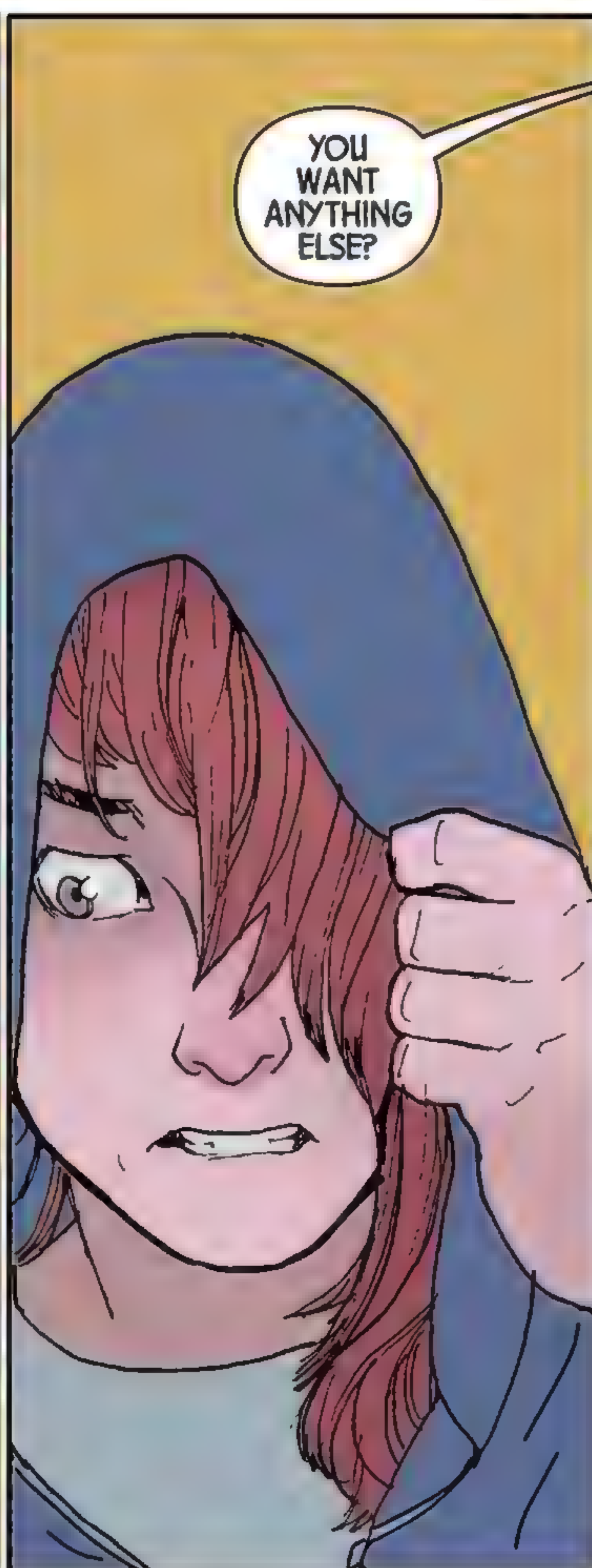


--LAWMAKERS
IN WASHINGTON FAILED
TO REACH A RESOLUTION
TODAY ON THE
NEW--

REST
UP.

I'M GONNA
GET US SOME
FOOD.





"...IT CAN GET
SCARY
OUT THERE."

KA
BOOM

YOU.
NOW.

HULK, WHY
CAN'T YOU
JUST--?

...PERFECT.

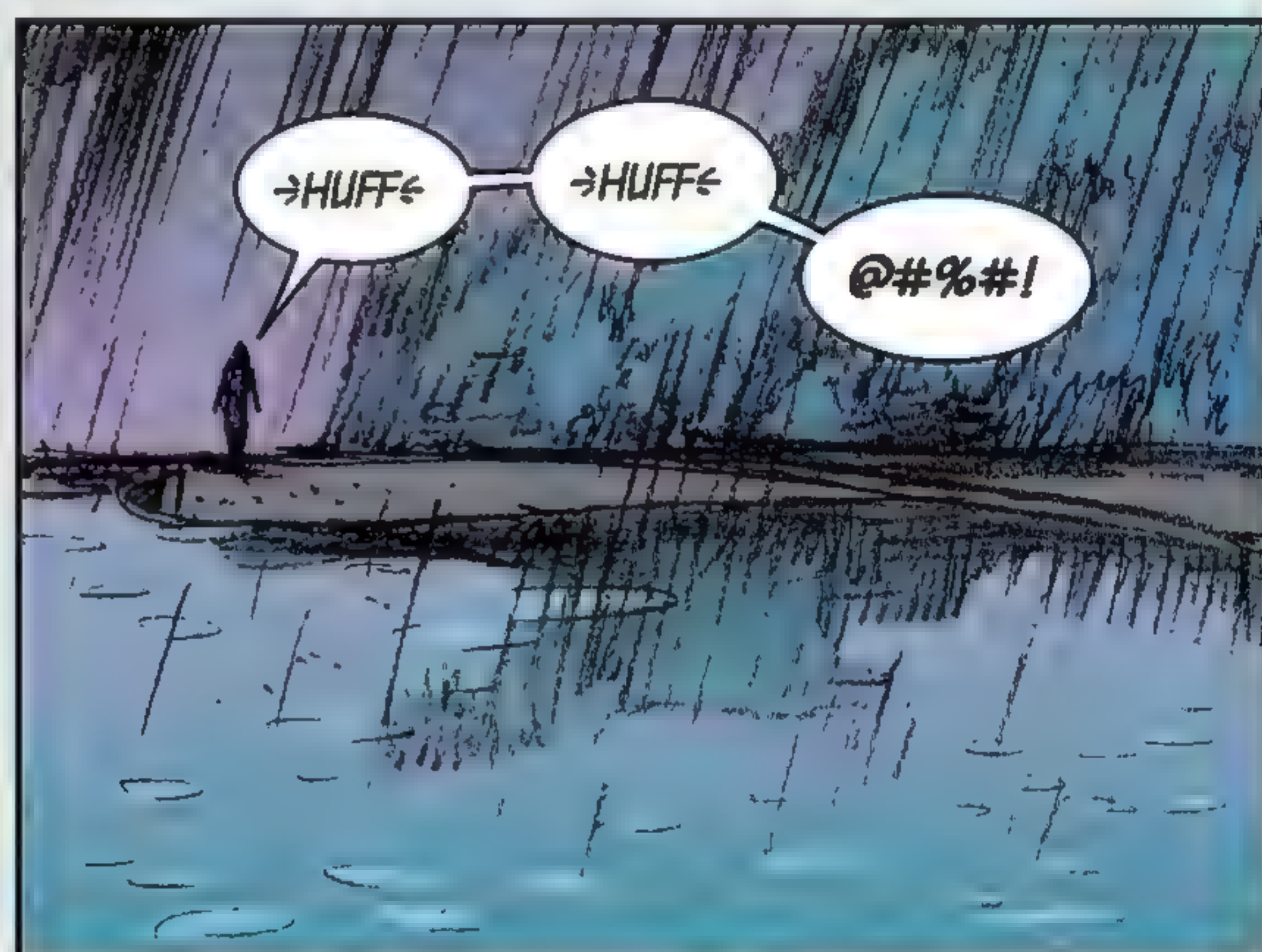
SQUELCH

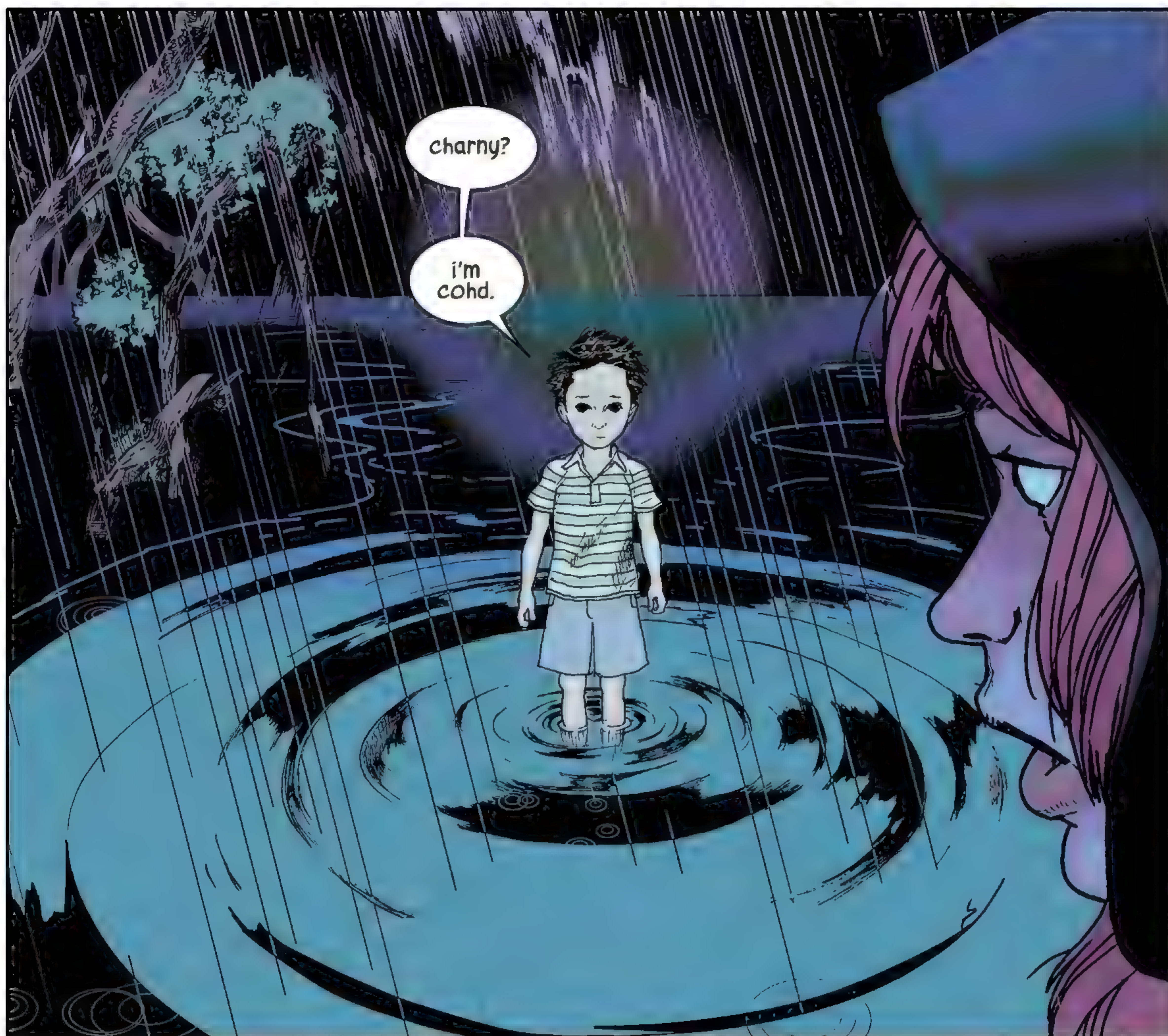
THOOOOOM

HHRRRRLLLLLL

HOLY
GOD.

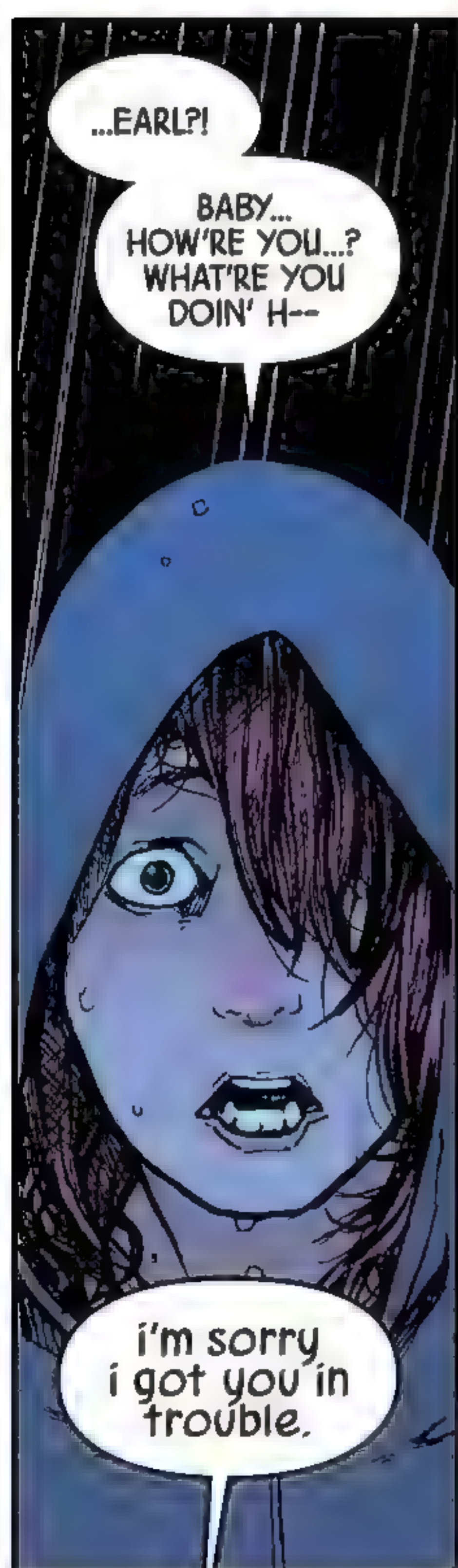
YOU'RE...





charny?

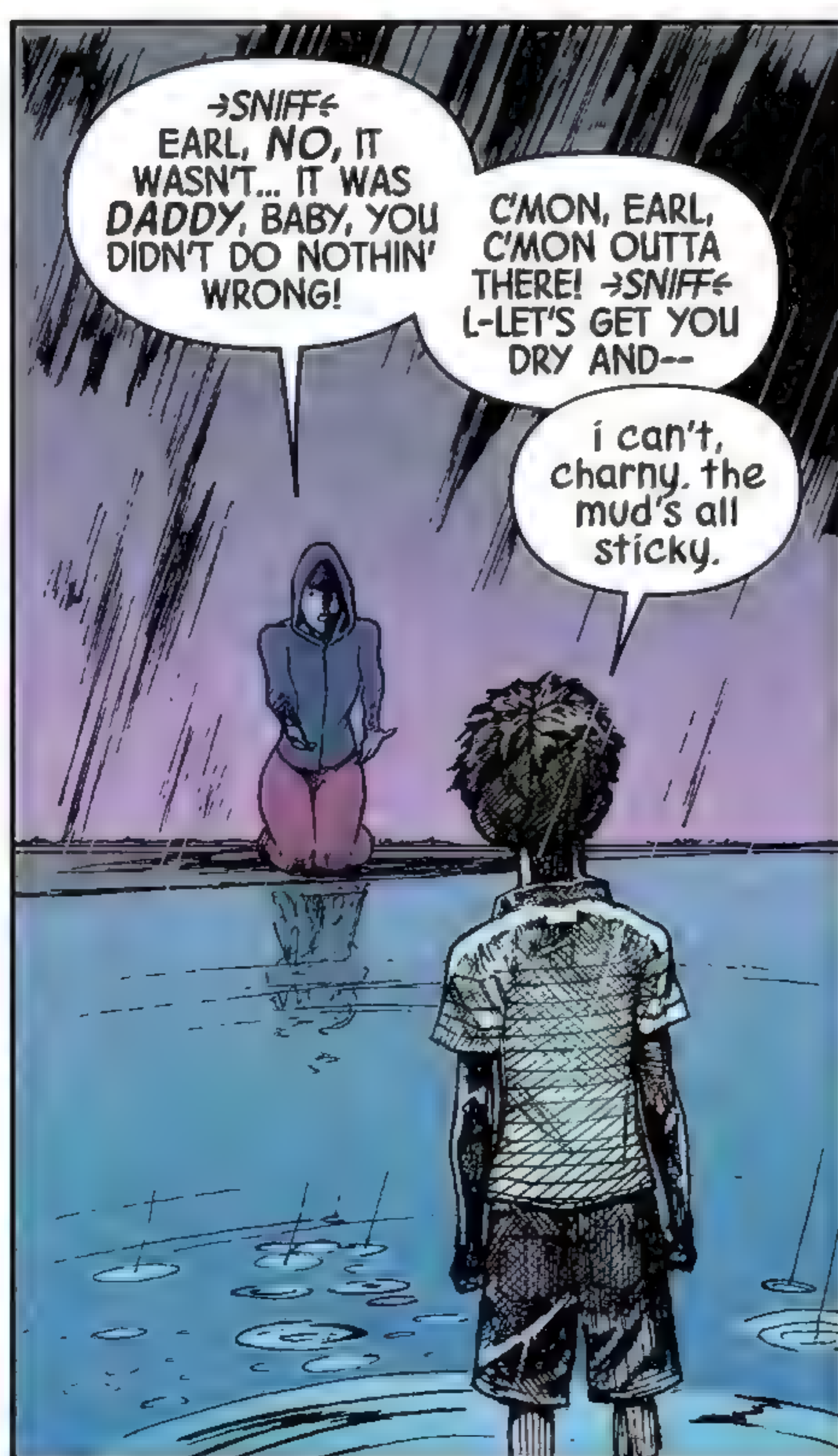
i'm
cohd.



...EARL?!

BABY...
HOW'RE YOU...?
WHAT'RE YOU
DOIN' H--

i'm sorry
i got you in
trouble.



→SNIFF←
EARL, NO, IT
WASN'T... IT WAS
DADDY, BABY, YOU
DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'
WRONG!

C'MON, EARL,
C'MON OUTTA
THERE! →SNIFF←
L-LET'S GET YOU
DRY AND--

i can't,
charny. the
mud's all
sticky.



pick
me up?

"YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE."

R R N N N L L L L

I...I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE TED SALLIS, OR YOU USED TO BE.

THE MAN-THING, WHO GUARDS THE NEXUS OF REALITIES.

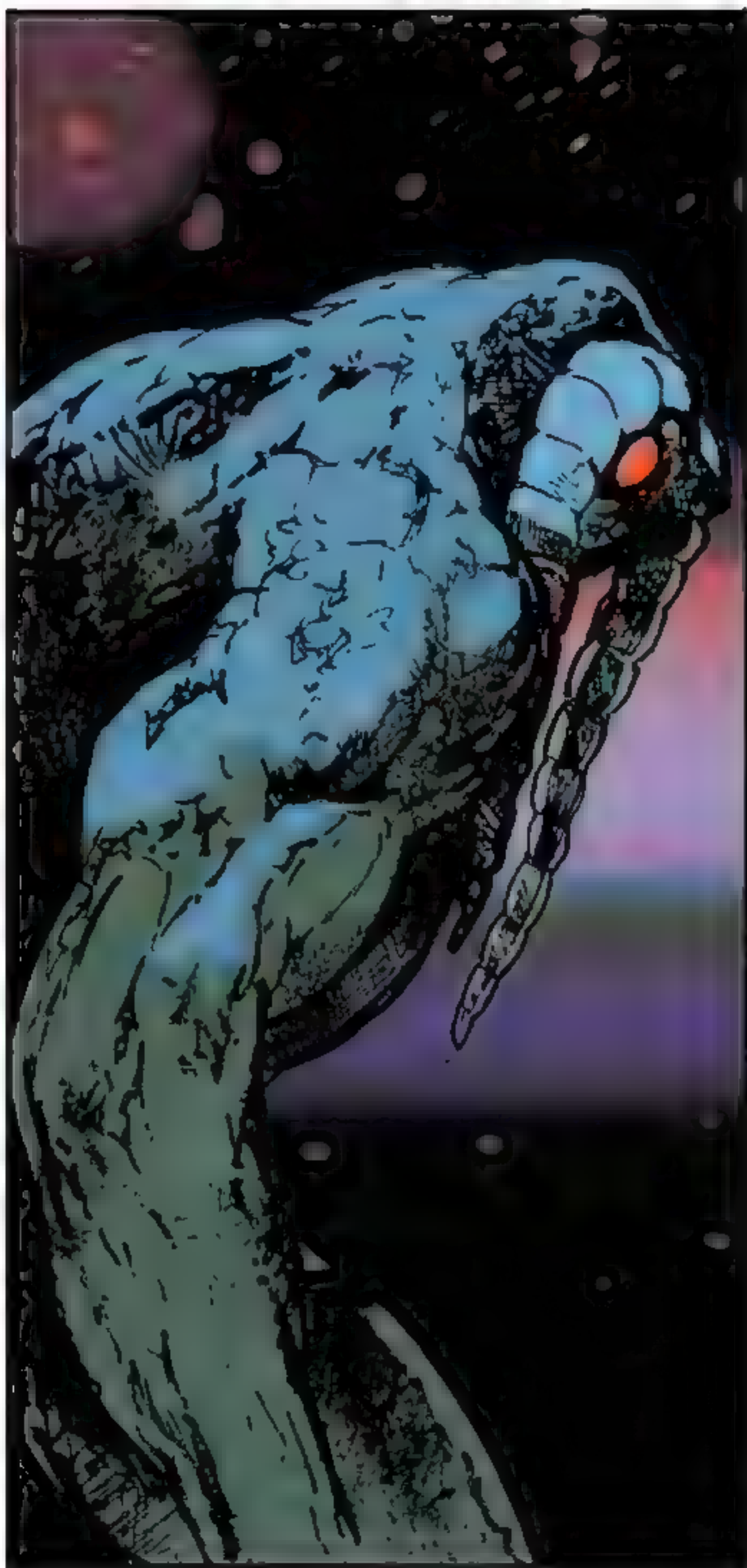
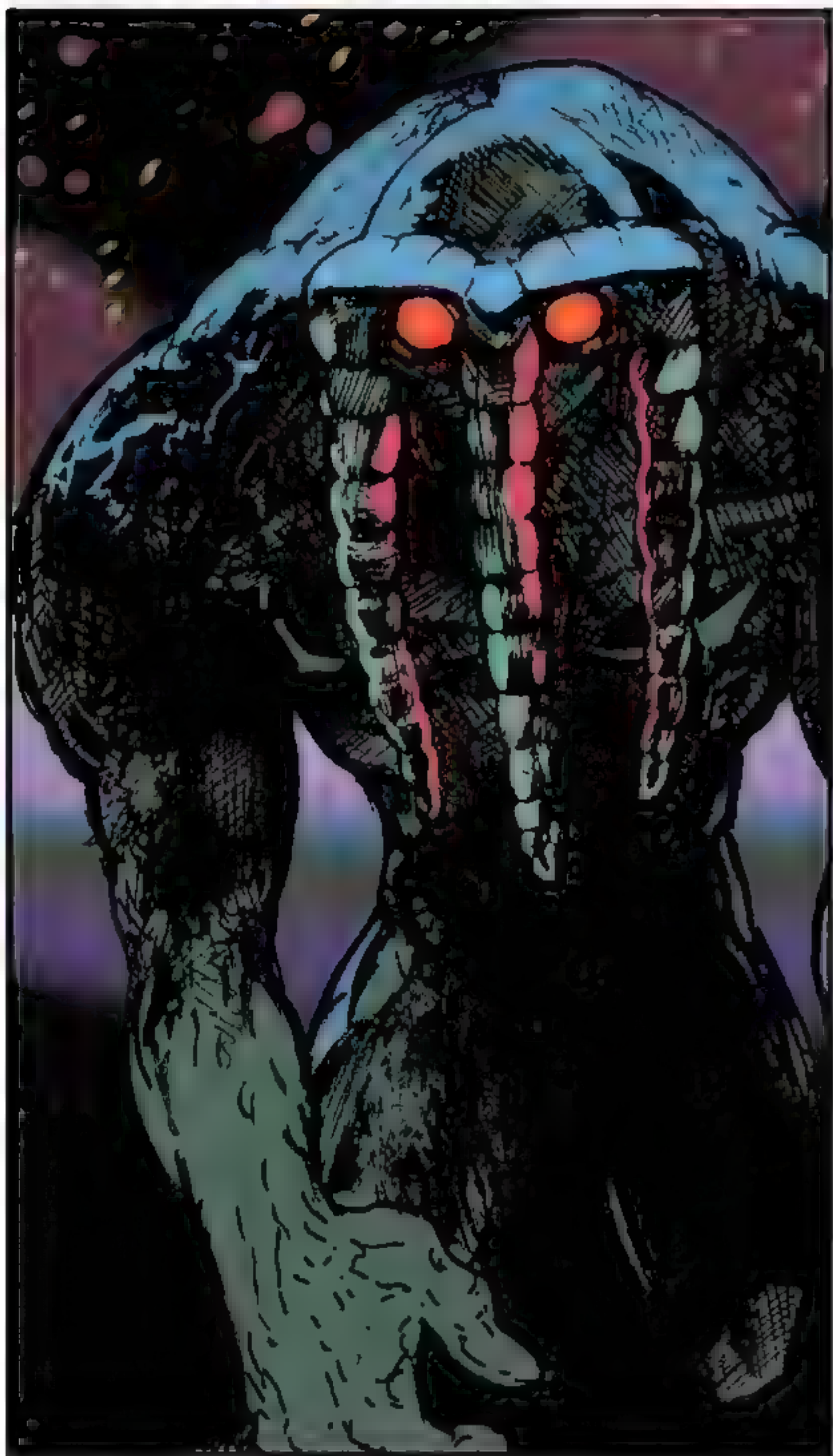
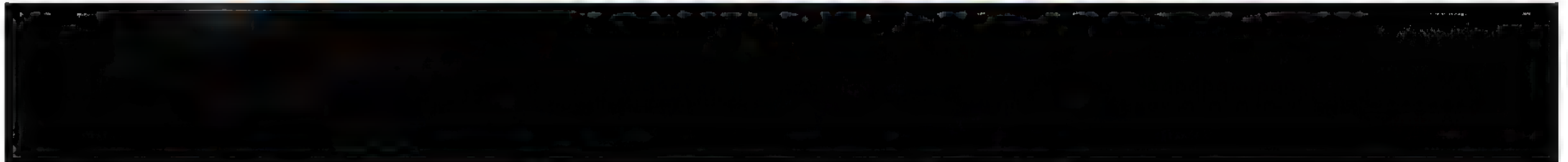
BEEN A WHILE. I DIDN'T THINK WE'D COME SO FAR SOUTH.

LISTEN...I'M IN DANGER, AND YOU MIGHT BE TOO. THERE'S SOMETHING AFTER--

[illegible]

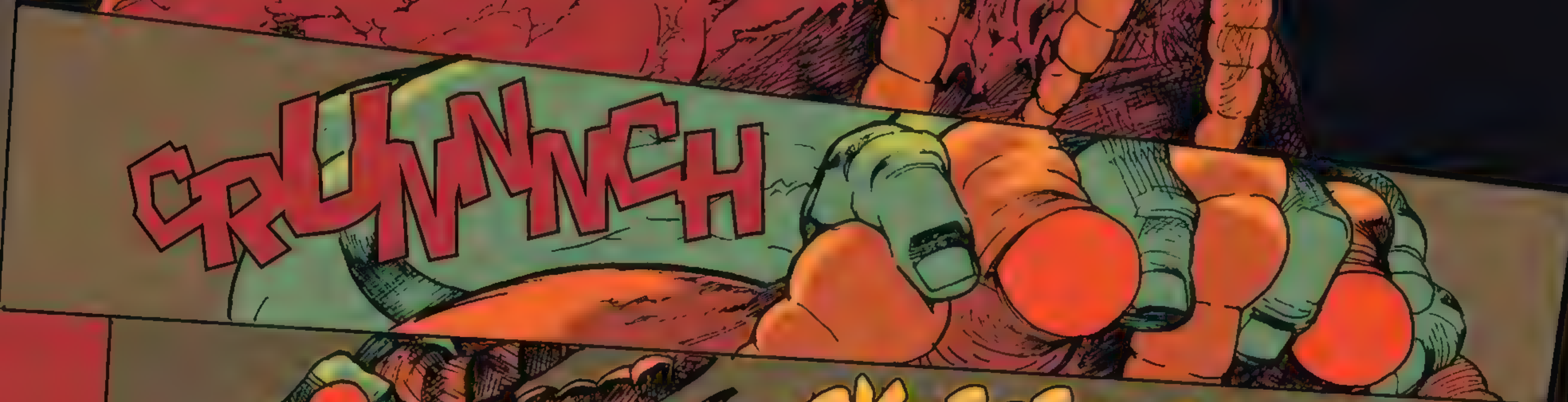
**SALLIS!
SALLIS,
NO!!!**

FSSS





POOOOM



CRUNCH



SKREEEEEEEEEEKK



KA-CLACK

SPRECK

SPLACK

POOOOM





STUPID
PLANT.
SHOULD
HAVE...



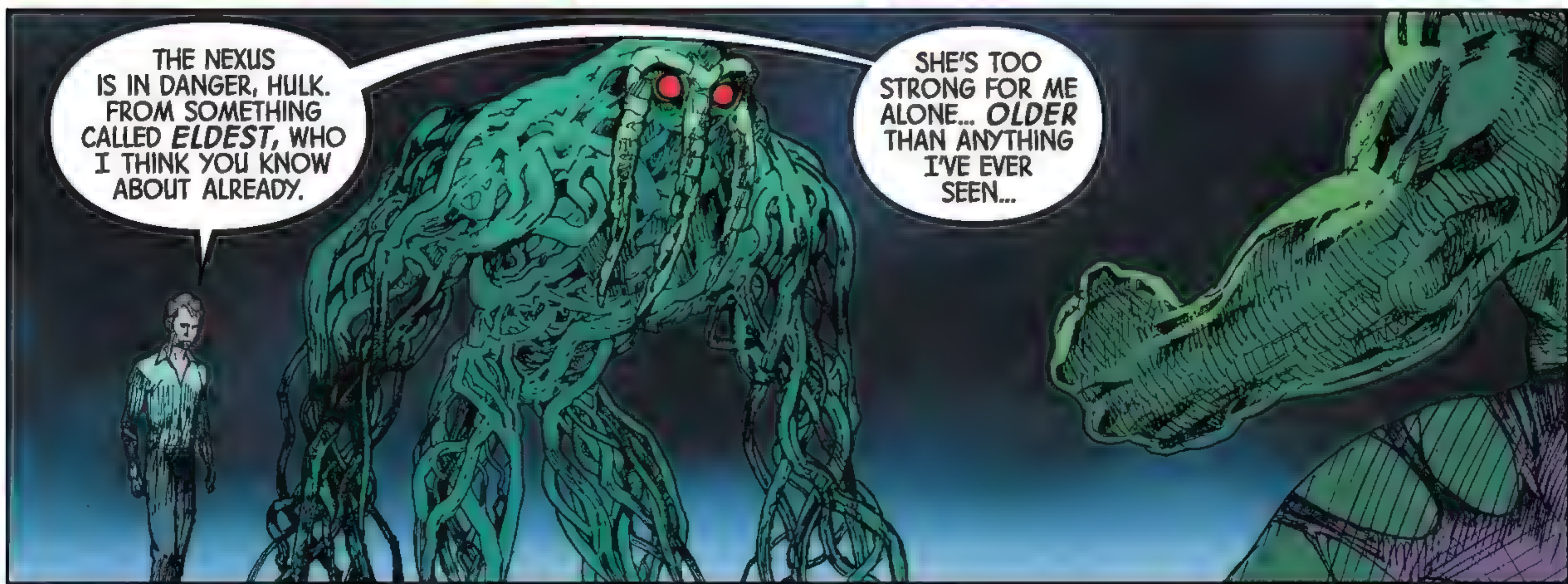
...HRRN.

THAT'S
RIGHT,
HULK.



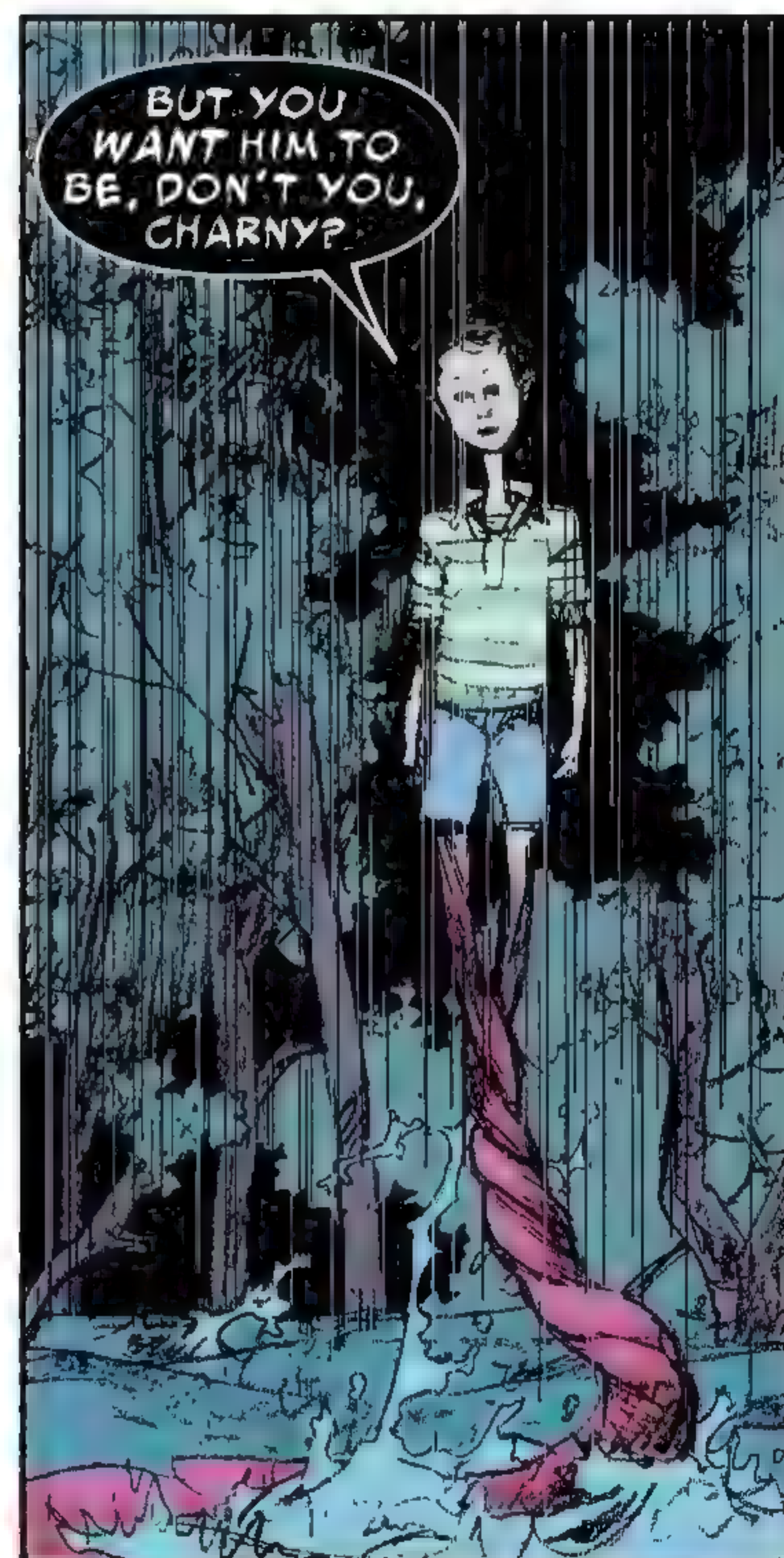
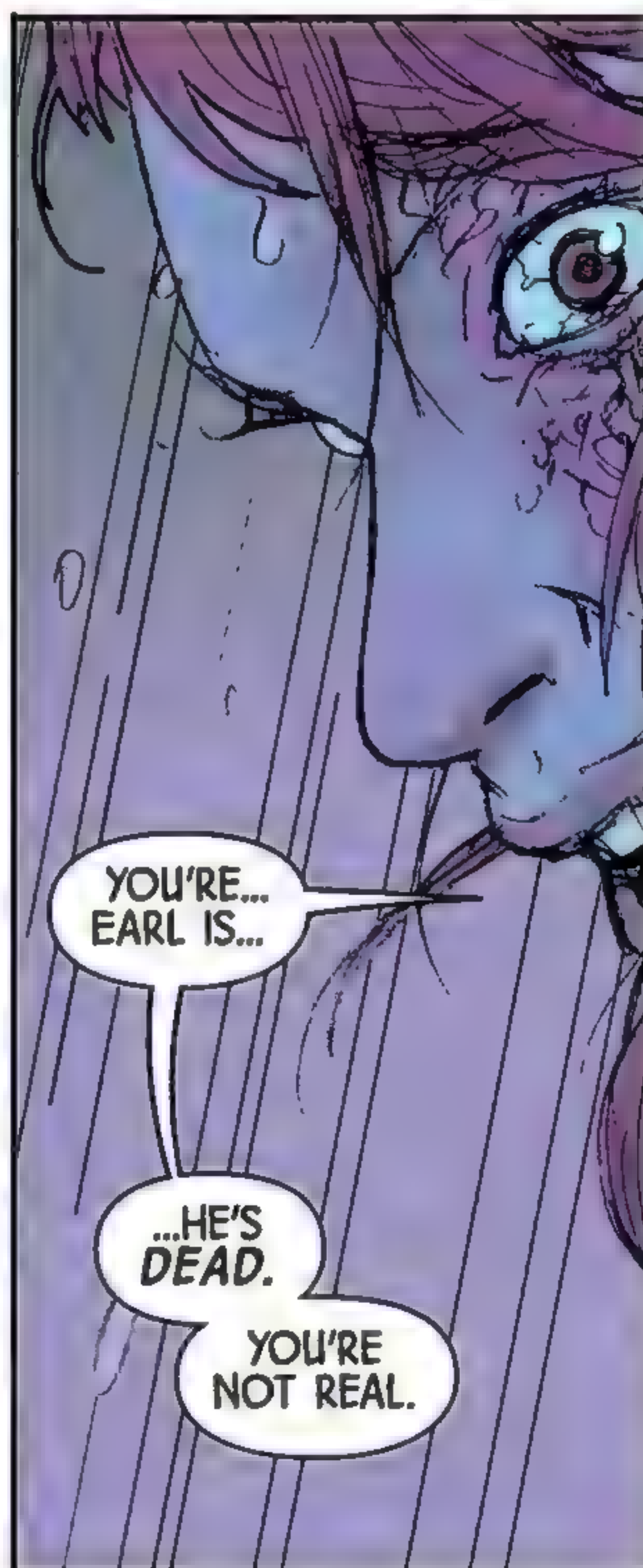
YOU'RE IN
THE **NEXUS**
NOW. WITH
ME.

I'M SORRY
TO BRING YOU
HERE THE WAY I
DID. BUT I NEED TO
SPEAK WITH YOU, AND
WITH MUCH GREATER
CLARITY THAN THE
MAN-THING IS
CAPABLE OF.

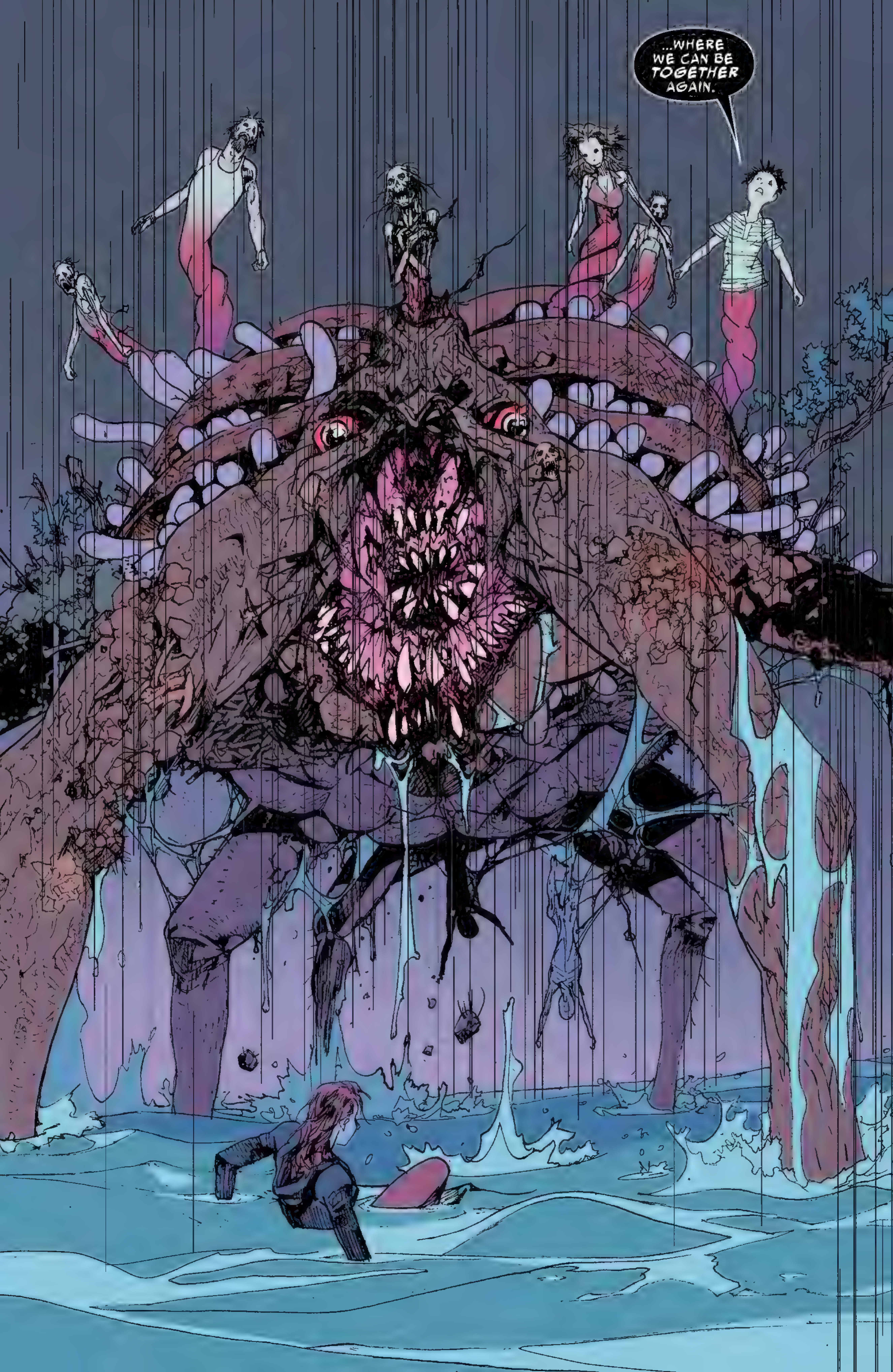


THE **NEXUS**
IS IN DANGER, HULK.
FROM SOMETHING
CALLED **ELDEST**, WHO
I THINK YOU KNOW
ABOUT ALREADY.

SHE'S TOO
STRONG FOR ME
ALONE... **OLDER**
THAN ANYTHING
I'VE EVER
SEEN...



...WHERE
WE CAN BE
TOGETHER
AGAIN.







THE NEXUS OF REALITIES.



MAN-THING
AND I NEED YOUR
HELP, HULK. THE
NEXUS NEEDS
YOUR HELP.

NO.
LET US
OUT, SALLIS.
NOW.

YOU MIGHT
THINK YOU'VE
BEEN GOING WHEREVER
THE WIND BLOWS. BUT
LIKE CALLS TO
LIKE, AND YOU
KNOW IT.

LIKE
IT OR NOT,
YOU WERE
CALLED
HERE.

LET
ME OUT.
NOW.

I CAN'T,
HULK. WE NEED
YOUR HELP.

SOMETHING
IS AWAKE IN THE
SWAMP, AND THE NEXUS
WILL FALL WITHOUT
YOU.



NOTHING
TO DO
WITH--

IT HAS
EVERYTHING
TO DO WITH YOU.
EVERYTHING.

SOME
FORCE HAS
SET EVERY
MONSTER ON
EARTH LOOSE
ON YOU.

NO.

JUST
THE STUPID
ONES.



LIKE
YOU.

YOU
CAN'T HURT
ME IN THIS
PLACE, HUL--



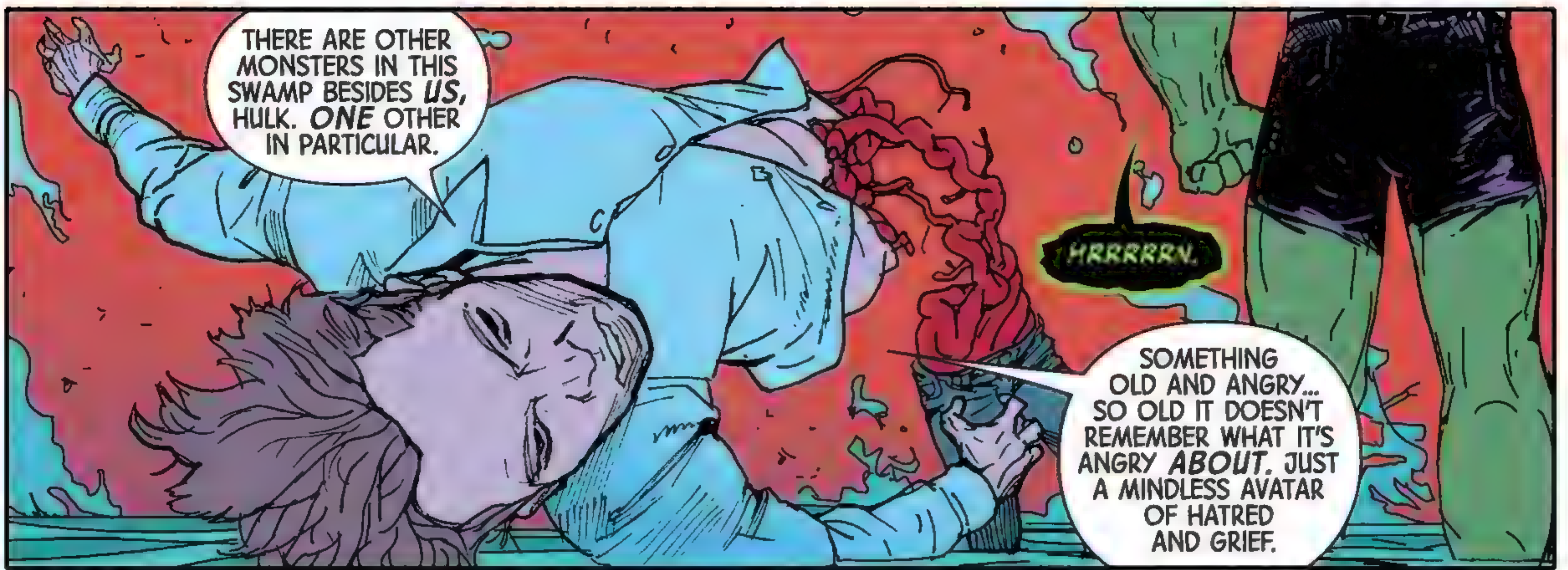
CRUNCH

STUPID
ONES.



LIKE
YOU.

SPLURRRRRRRP





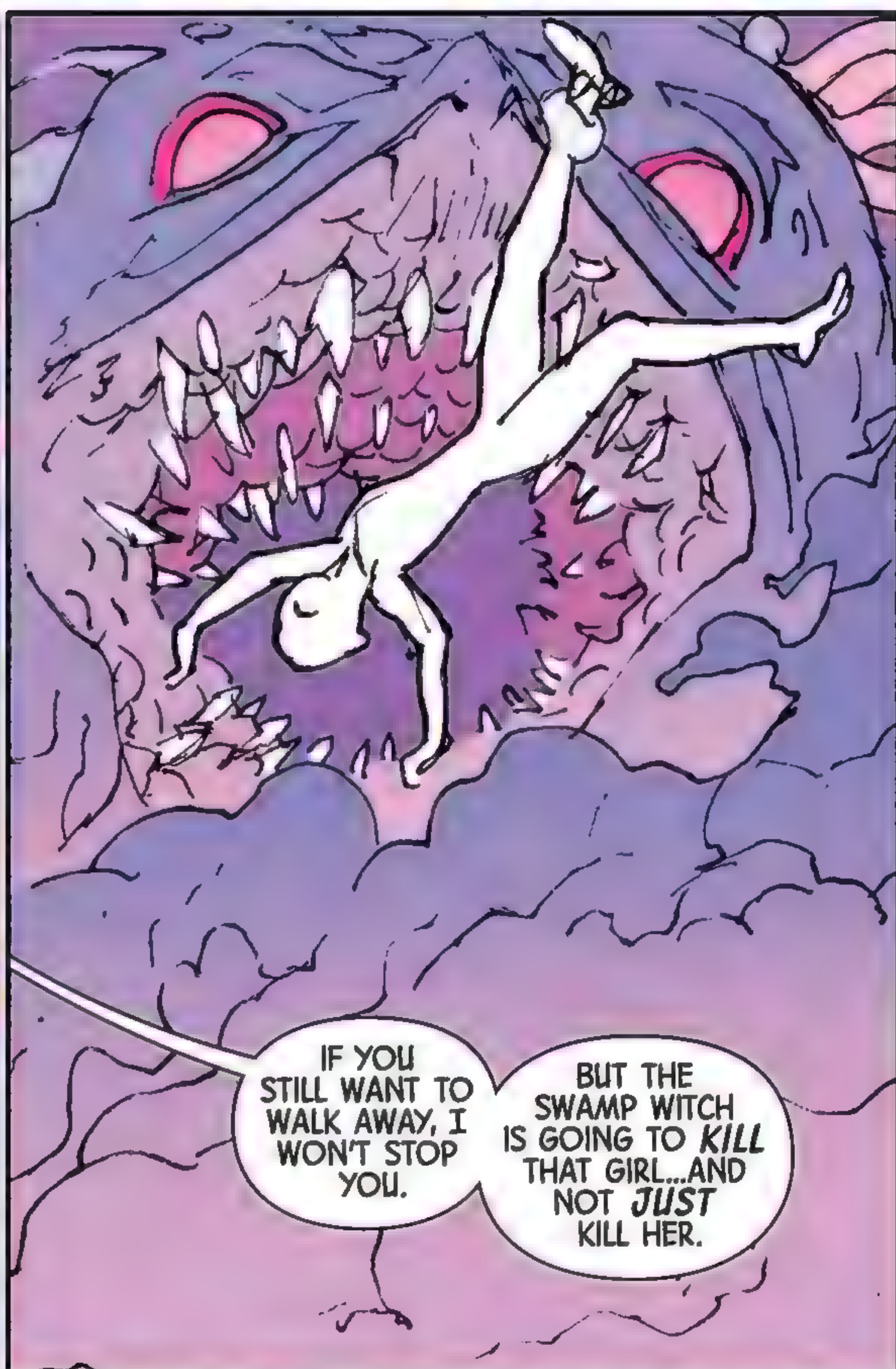
YOU
CAME HERE
WITH A GIRL,
TOO.

DIDN'T
YOU?



ALSO
NOT THAT
INNOCENT OR
ORDINARY.

BUT I BET
SHE DESERVES
BETTER THAN TO
DIE ALONE IN
A SWAMP.



IF YOU
STILL WANT TO
WALK AWAY, I
WON'T STOP
YOU.

BUT THE
SWAMP WITCH
IS GOING TO KILL
THAT GIRL...AND
NOT **JUST**
KILL HER.



YOU'VE
BEEN A **HERO**
BEFORE, HULK. I
REMEMBER.

MAYBE YOU
ARE WILLING
TO LEAVE THIS
PLACE TO ITS
DEMONS...



"...BUT ARE YOU
REALLY GOING
TO LET THAT
GIRL DIE, TOO?"



G-GET
AWAY!!!

WHY
ARE YOU
FIGHTIN',
CHARNY?



WE JUST
WANNA BE
TOGETHER.

AAAAAHHH!

P-PLEASE!
I DON'T
WANNA!

I DON'T
WANNA DIE
LIKE THIS!

THEY'D
ONLY
HURT YOU,
CHARLIE.

ALL THEY
EVER DO...

...IS
HURT.

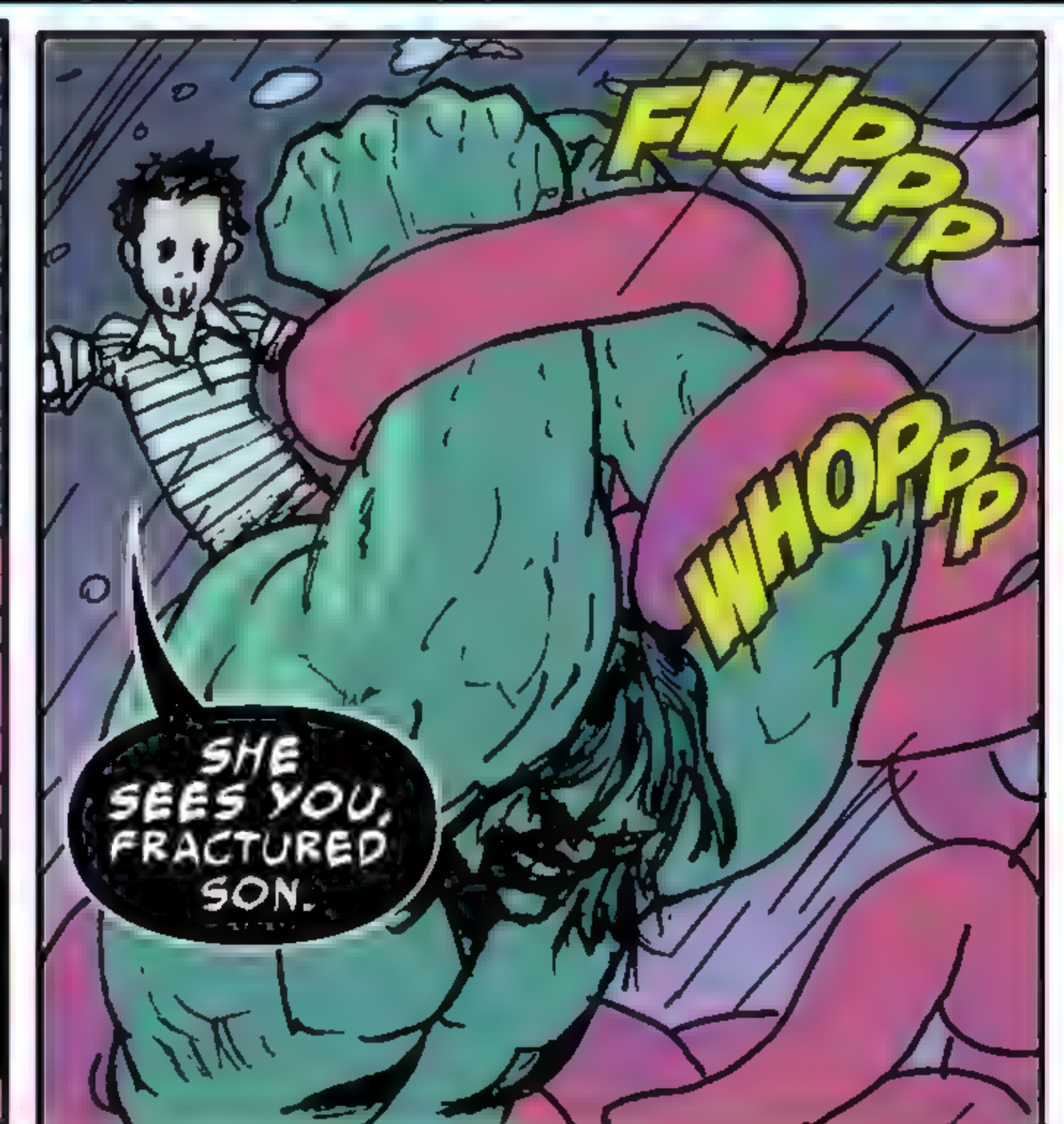
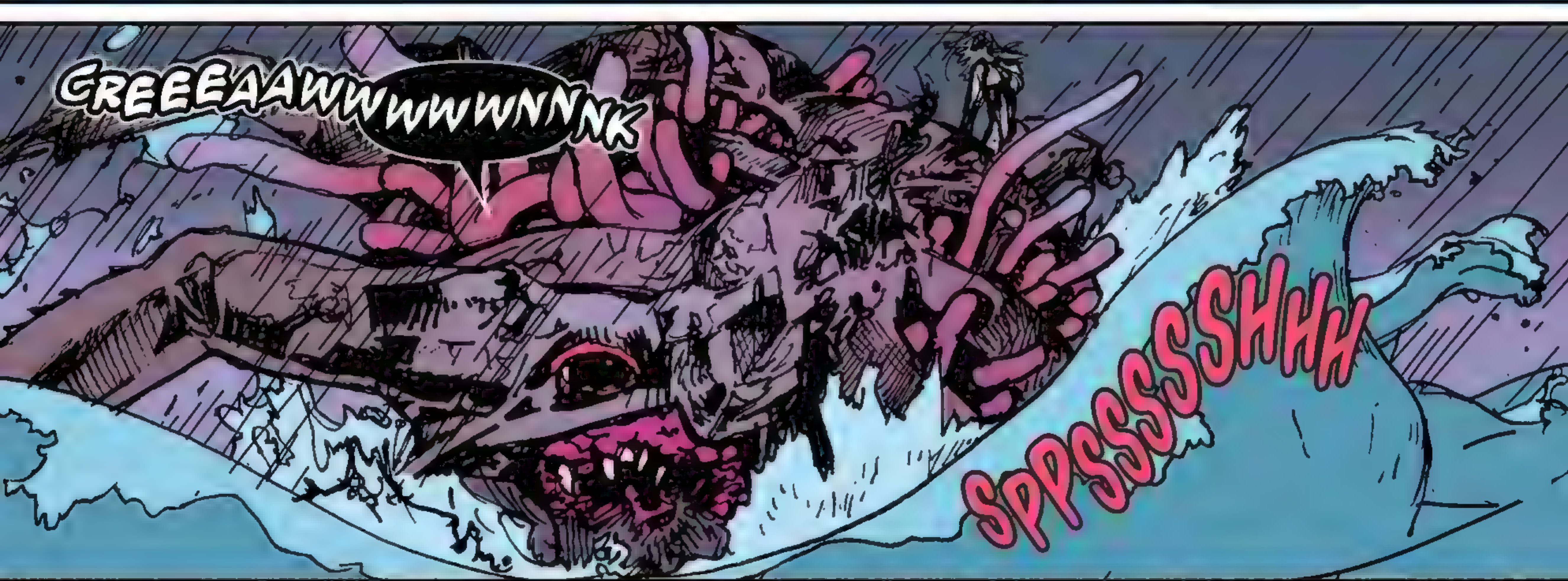
NOW
THEY
CAN NEVER
HURT YOU
AGAI--





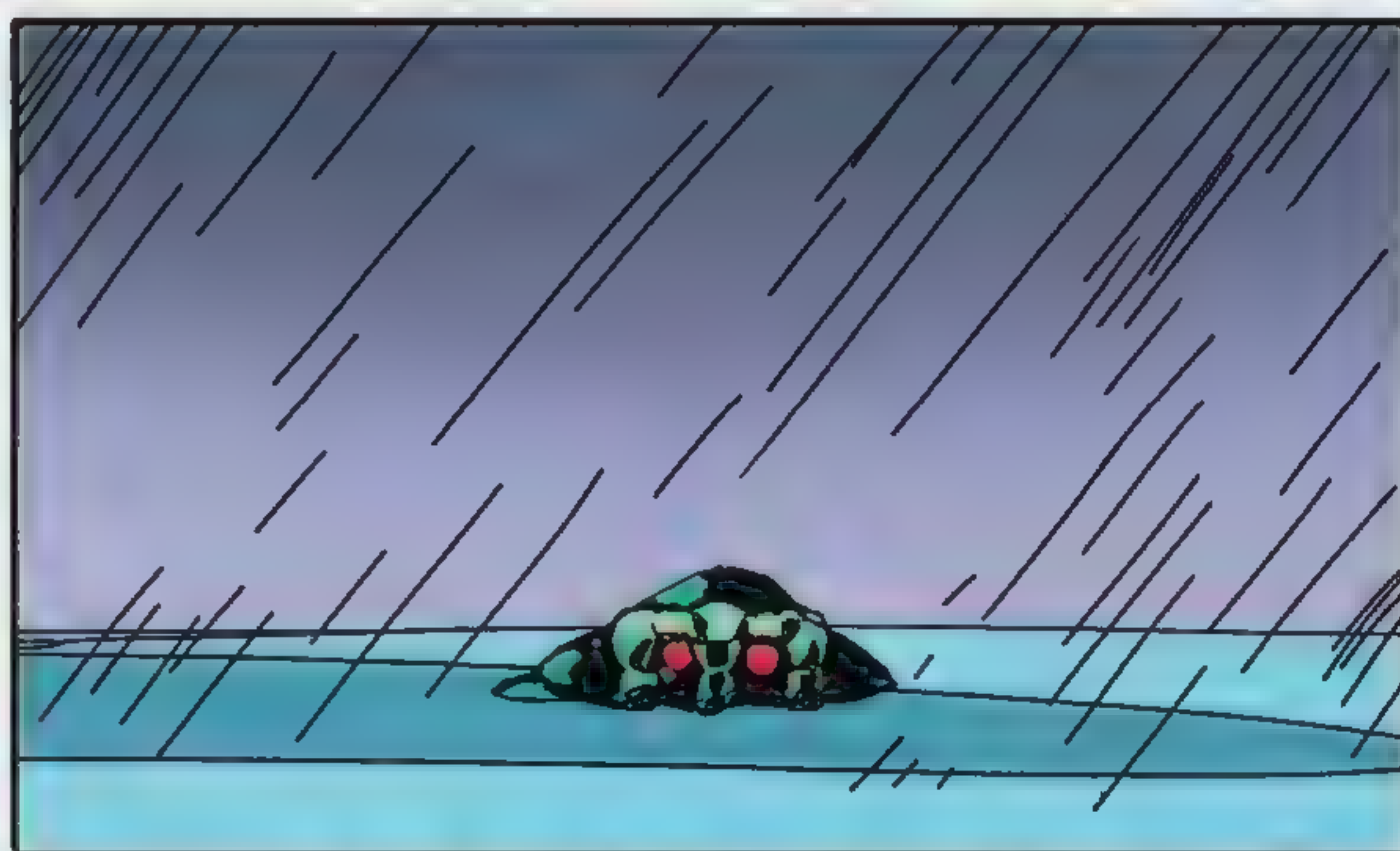
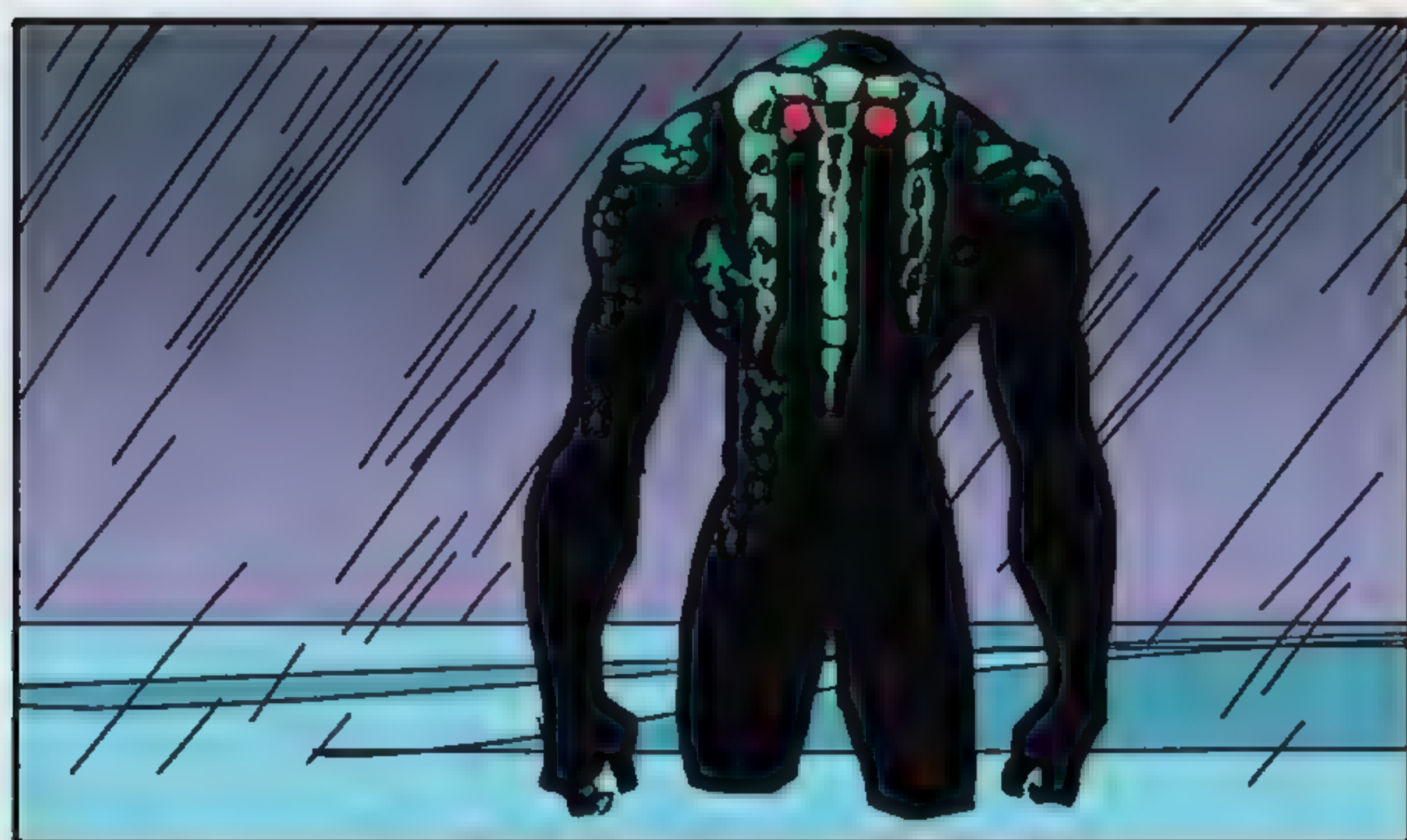
AAAAAHHH!!!













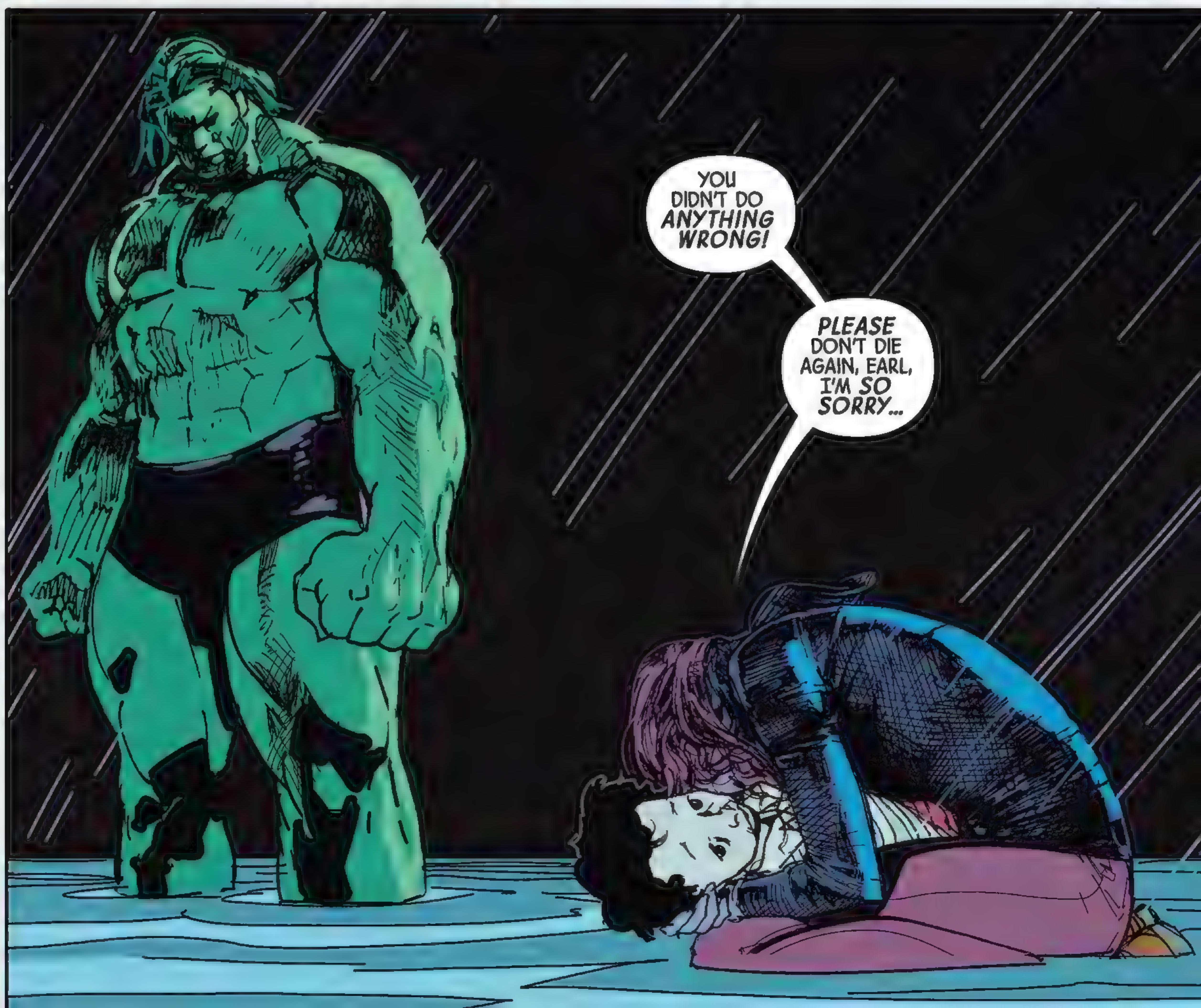
I'M SO
SORRY, EARL,
I'M S-SO,
SO SORRY...
→SNIFF←

IT WAS
ALL MY FAULT...
MY FAULT, MY
FAULT, ALL MY
FAULT...



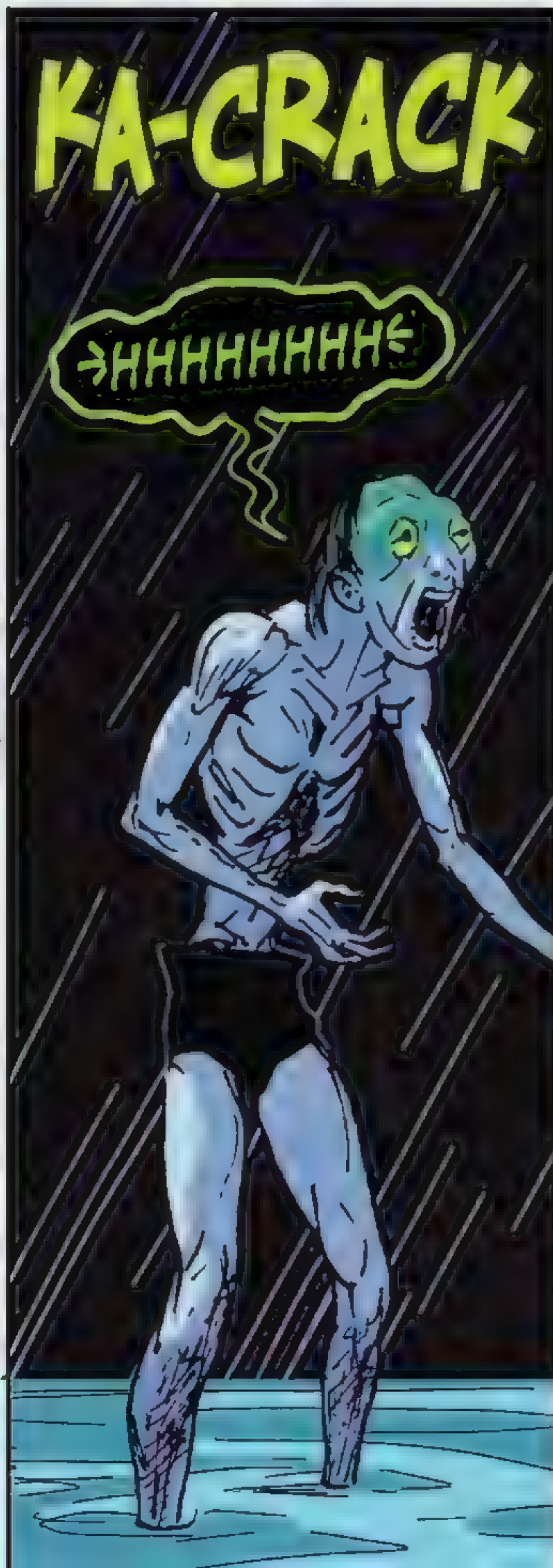
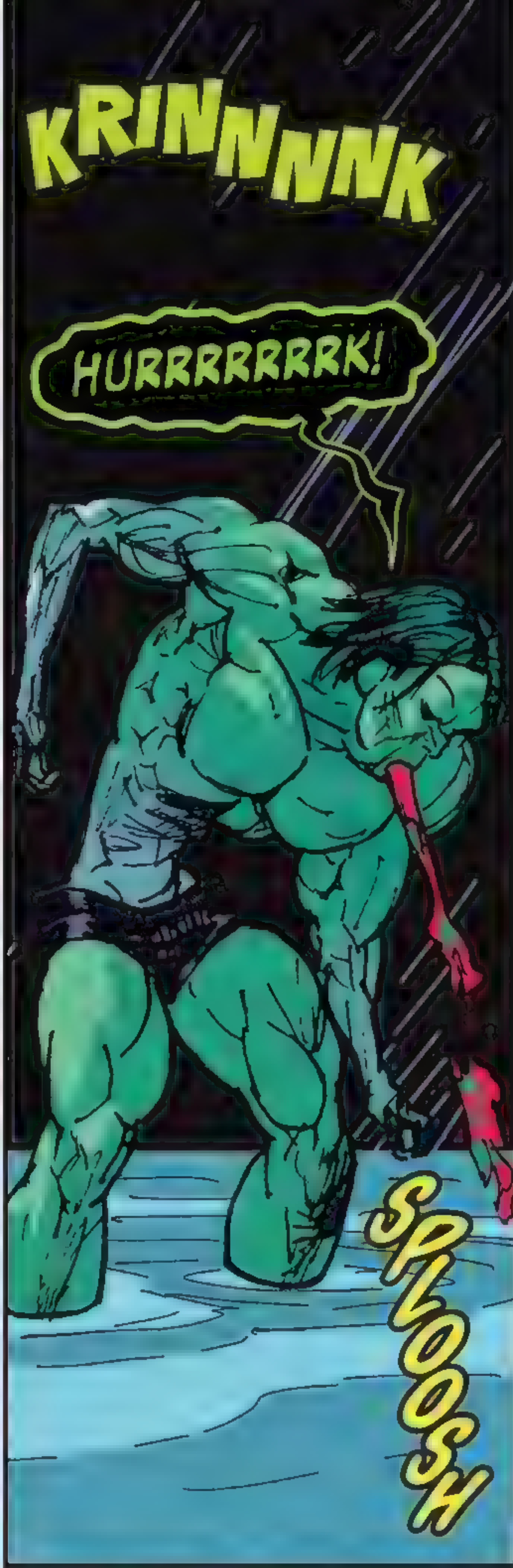
IF I
WASN'T SO...
SO CLUMSY,
MAYBE HE
WOULDN'T'VE...
→SNIFF←

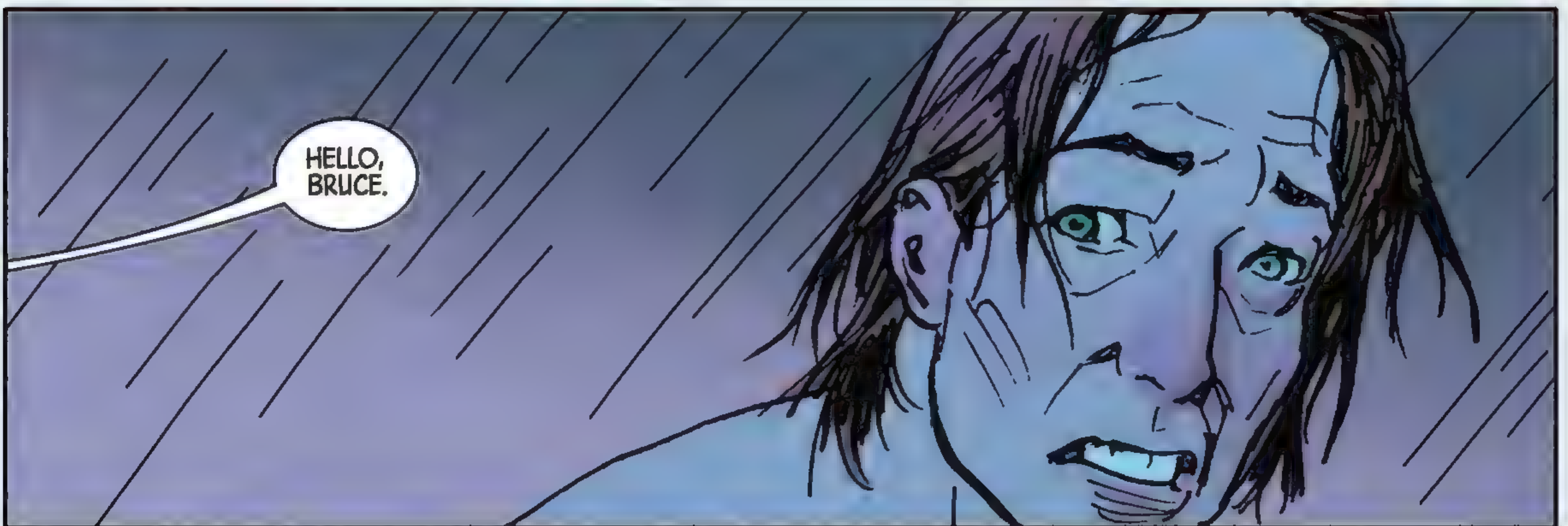
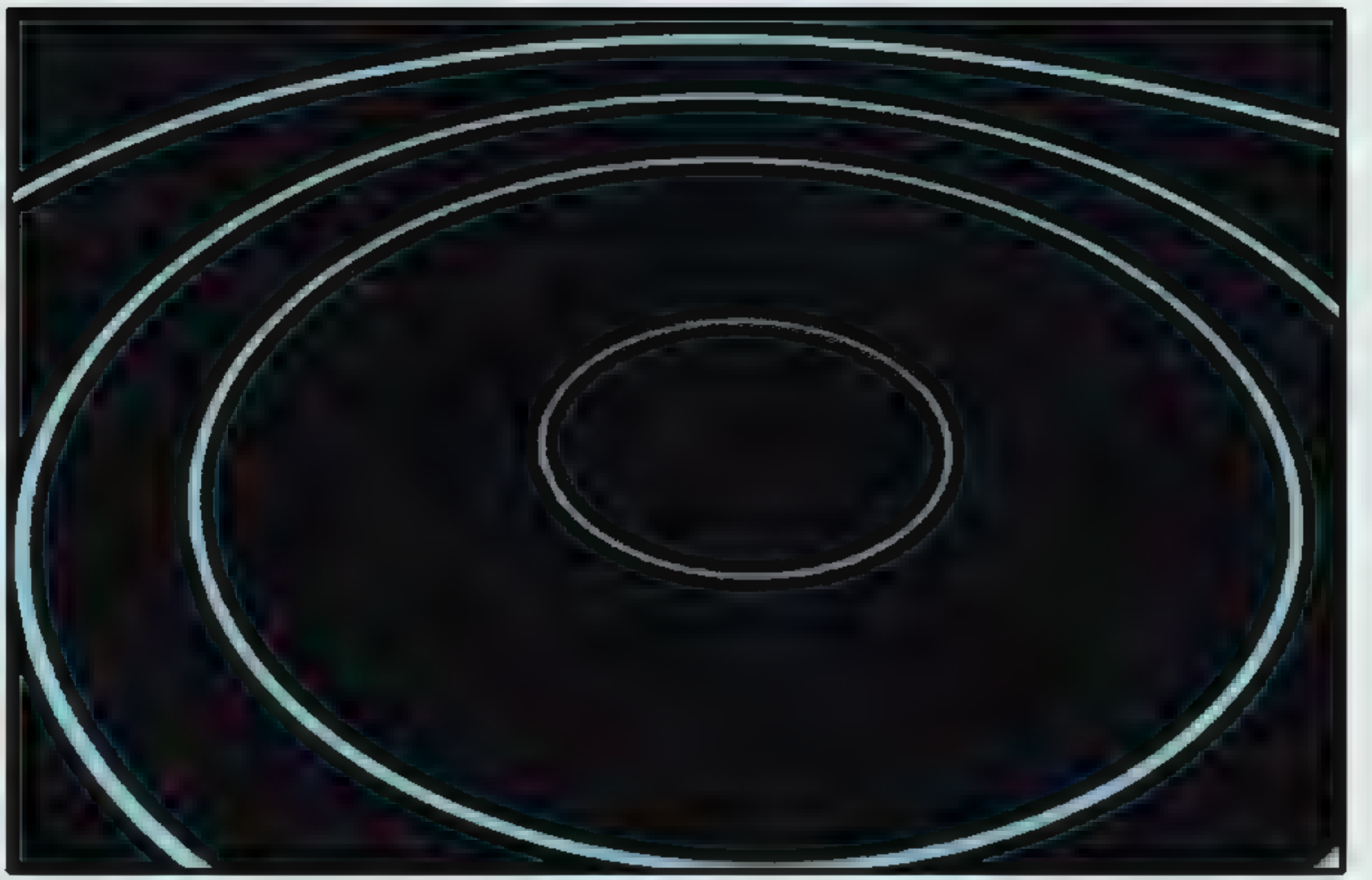
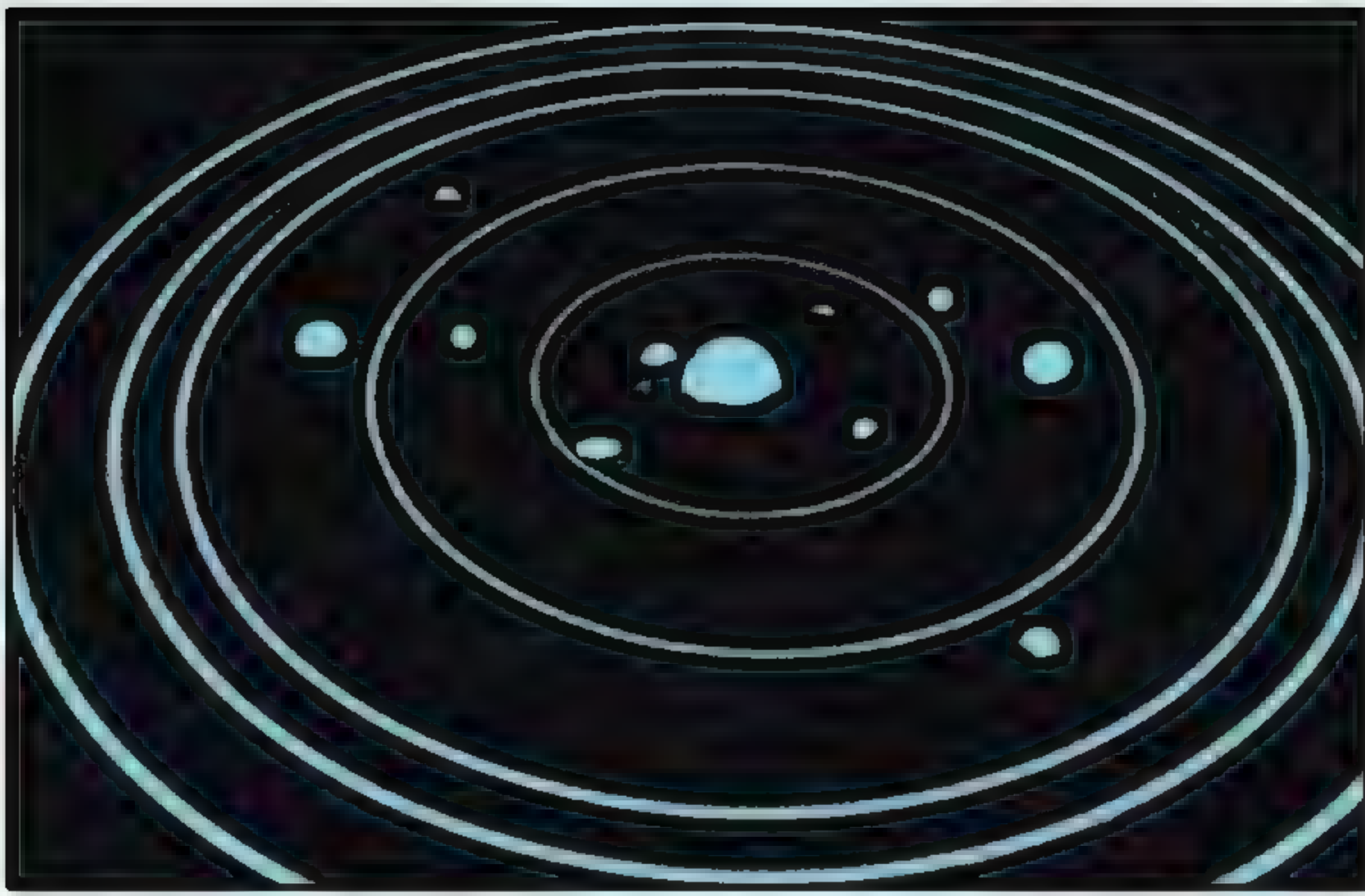
YOU
DIDN'T EVEN DO
ANYTHING...

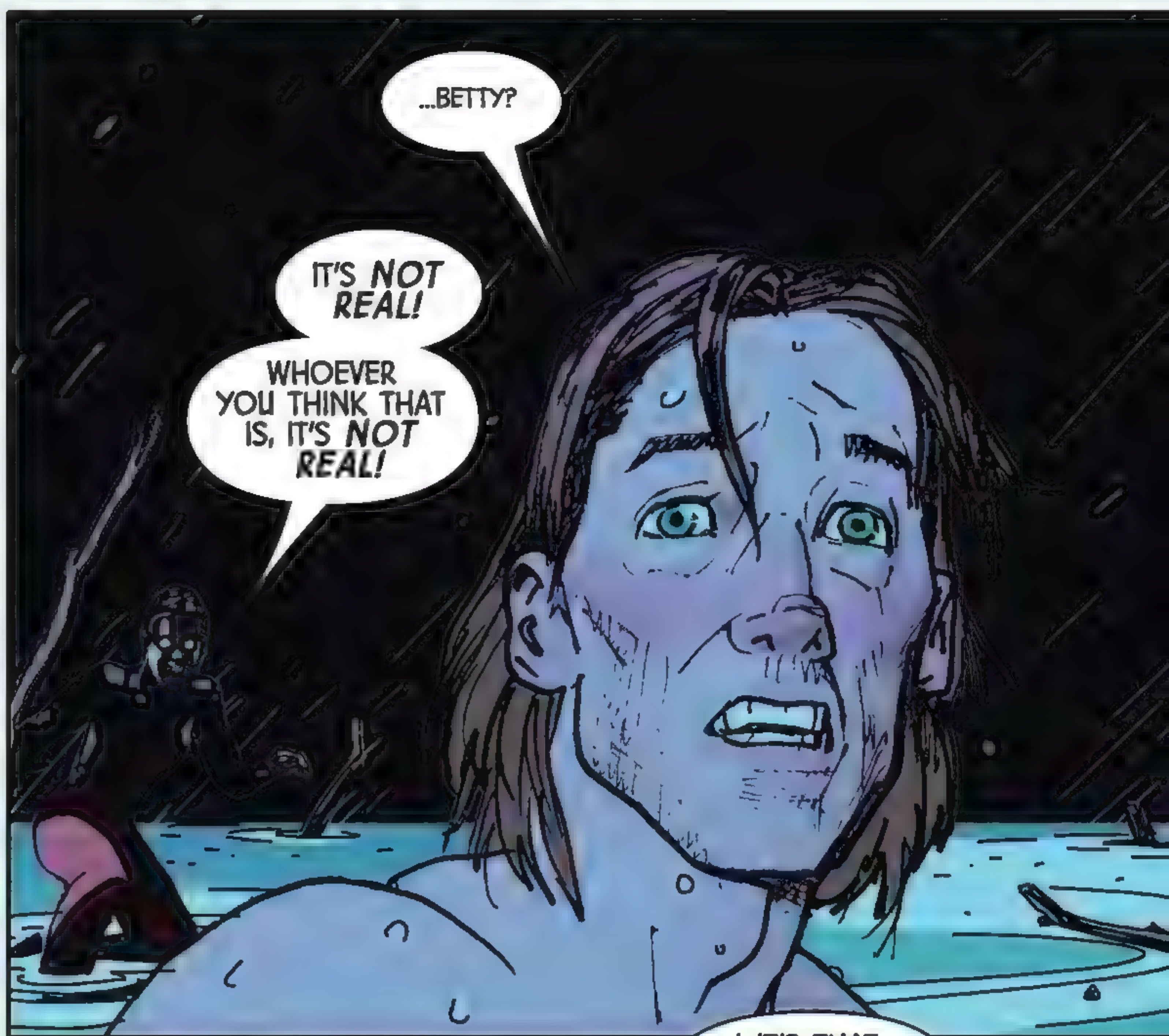


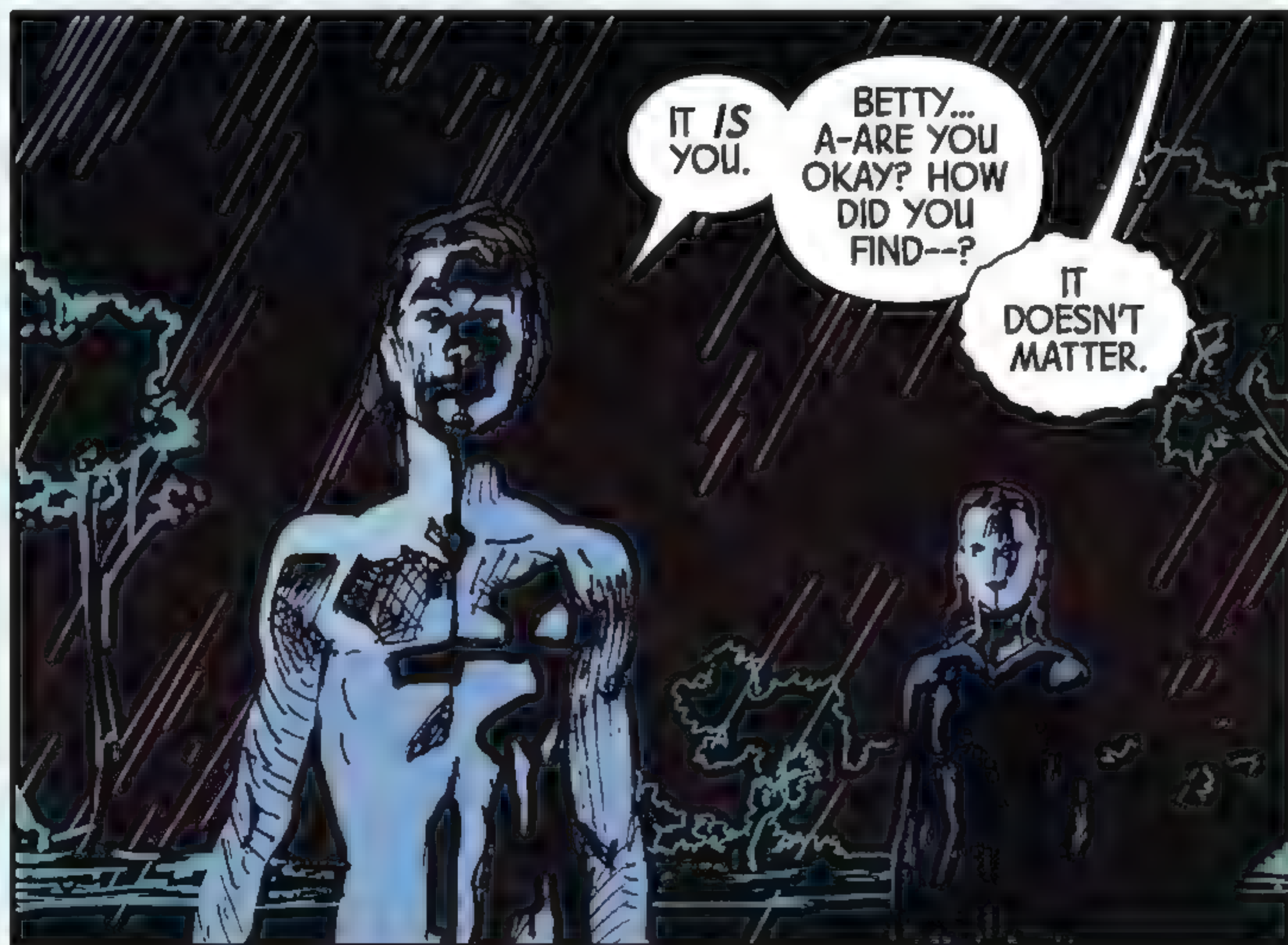
YOU
DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
WRONG!

PLEASE
DON'T DIE
AGAIN, EARL,
I'M SO
SORRY...











I'M HEARING THAT NAME A LOT LATELY.

SHE'S ONE OF US. THE *FIRST* OF US.

THE FIRST ABOMINATION, BORN AGAINST THE WILL OF THE ONE ABOVE ALL.

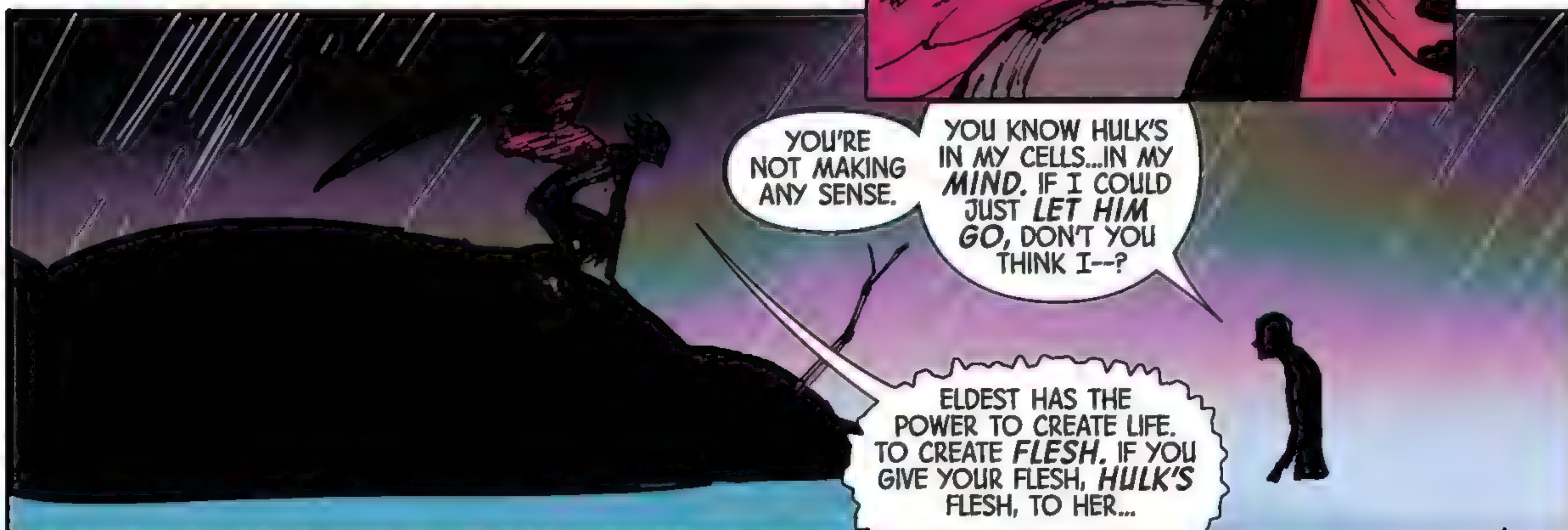


SHE KNOWS YOU, BRUCE. SHE SENT ME HERE TO MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU.

A DEAL? WHAT DOES SHE WANT?



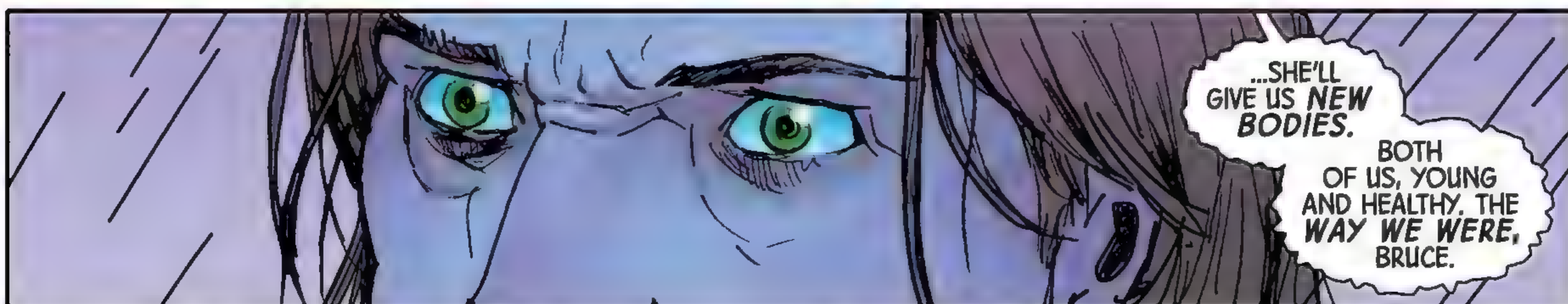
SHE WANTS HULK.



YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.

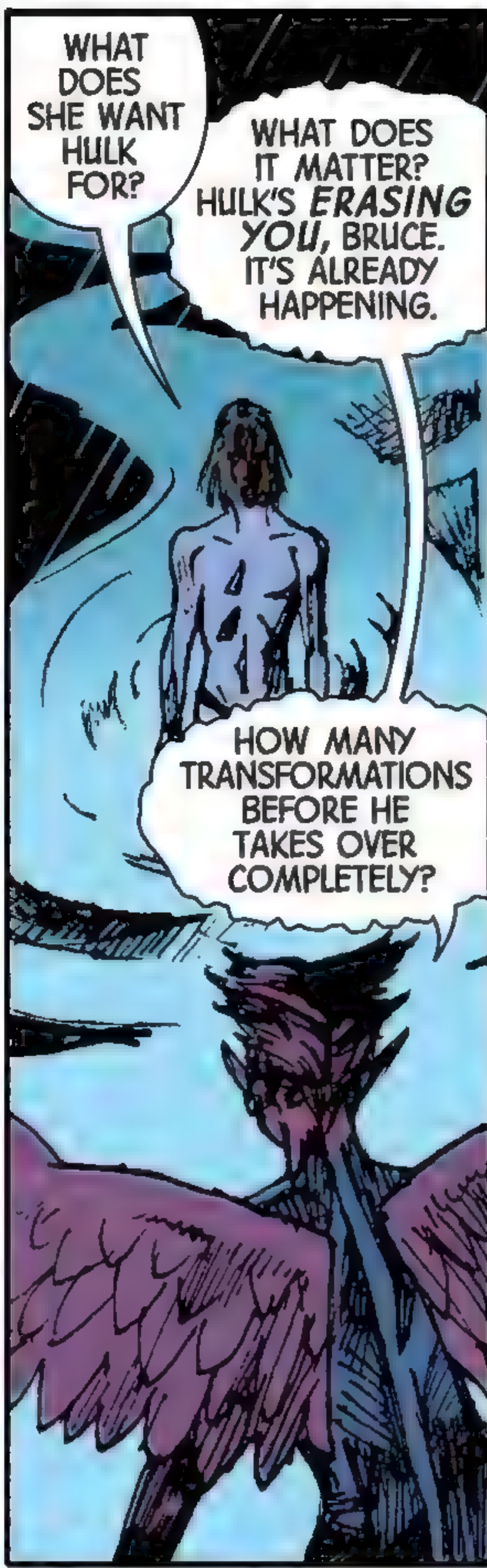
YOU KNOW HULK'S IN MY CELLS...IN MY MIND. IF I COULD JUST LET HIM GO, DON'T YOU THINK I--?

ELDEST HAS THE POWER TO CREATE LIFE. TO CREATE *FLESH*. IF YOU GIVE YOUR FLESH, *HULK'S* FLESH, TO HER...



...SHE'LL GIVE US NEW BODIES.

BOTH OF US, YOUNG AND HEALTHY. THE WAY WE WERE, BRUCE.



WHAT DOES SHE WANT HULK FOR?

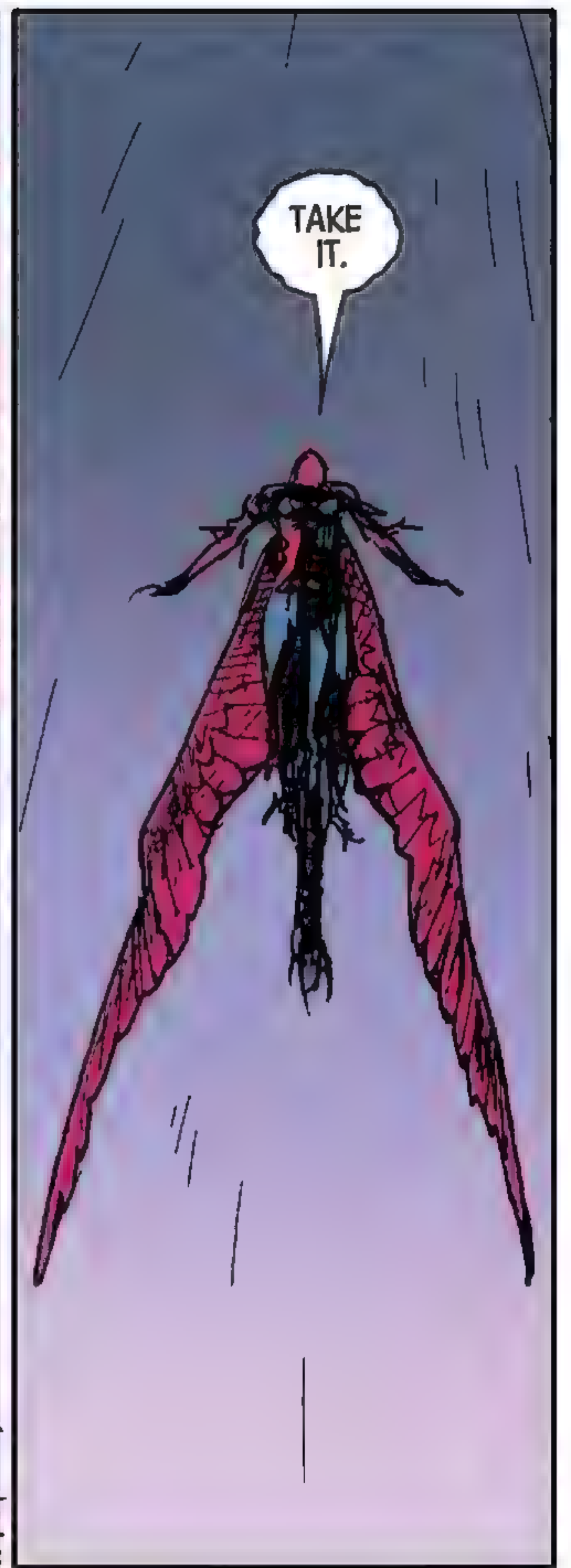
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? HULK'S *ERASING* YOU, BRUCE. IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING.

HOW MANY TRANSFORMATIONS BEFORE HE TAKES OVER COMPLETELY?

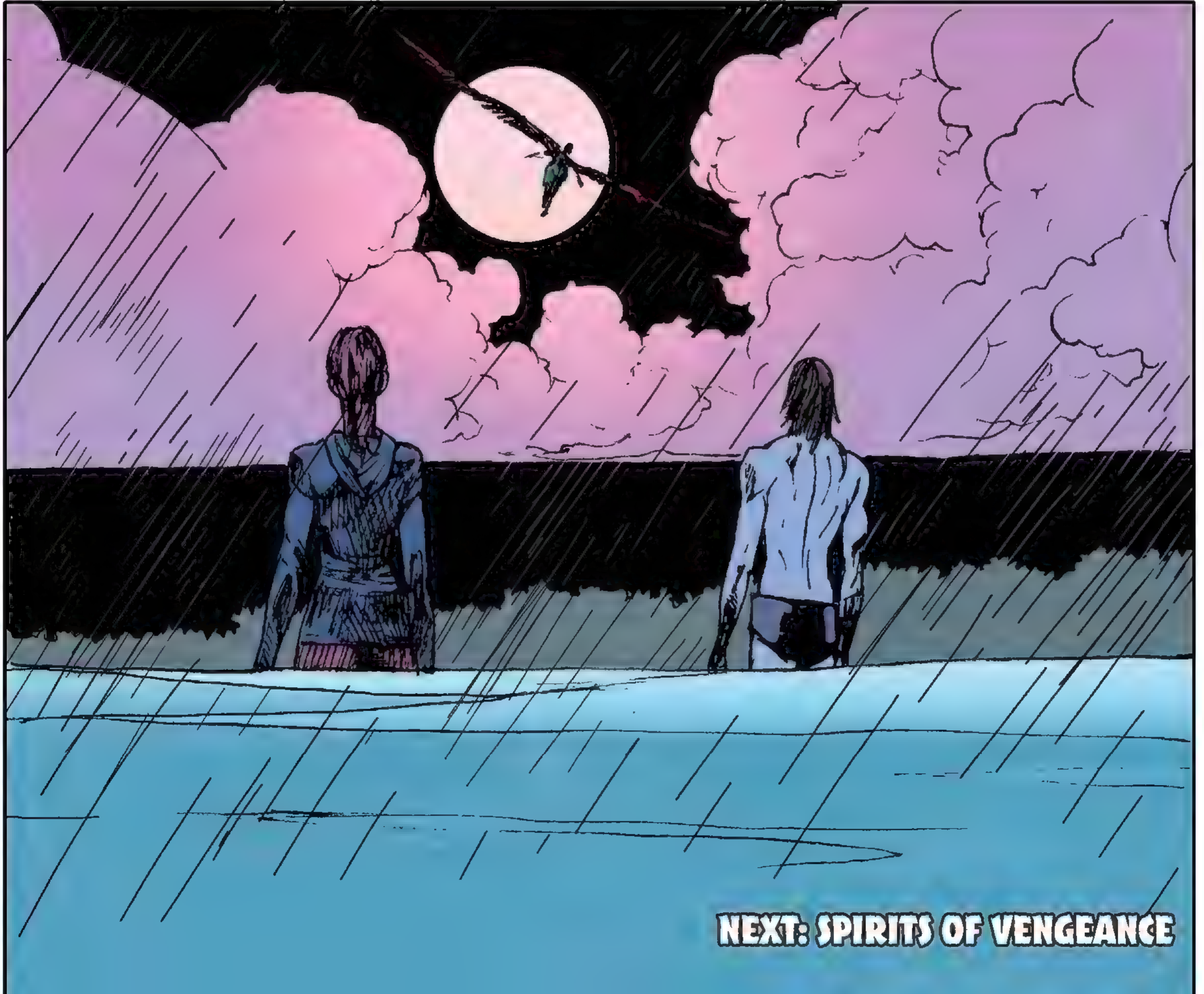


ELDEST WILL COME TO YOU SOON.

SHE'S OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO UNDO ALL THE *AWFUL THINGS* YOU'VE DONE TO US.



TAKE IT.

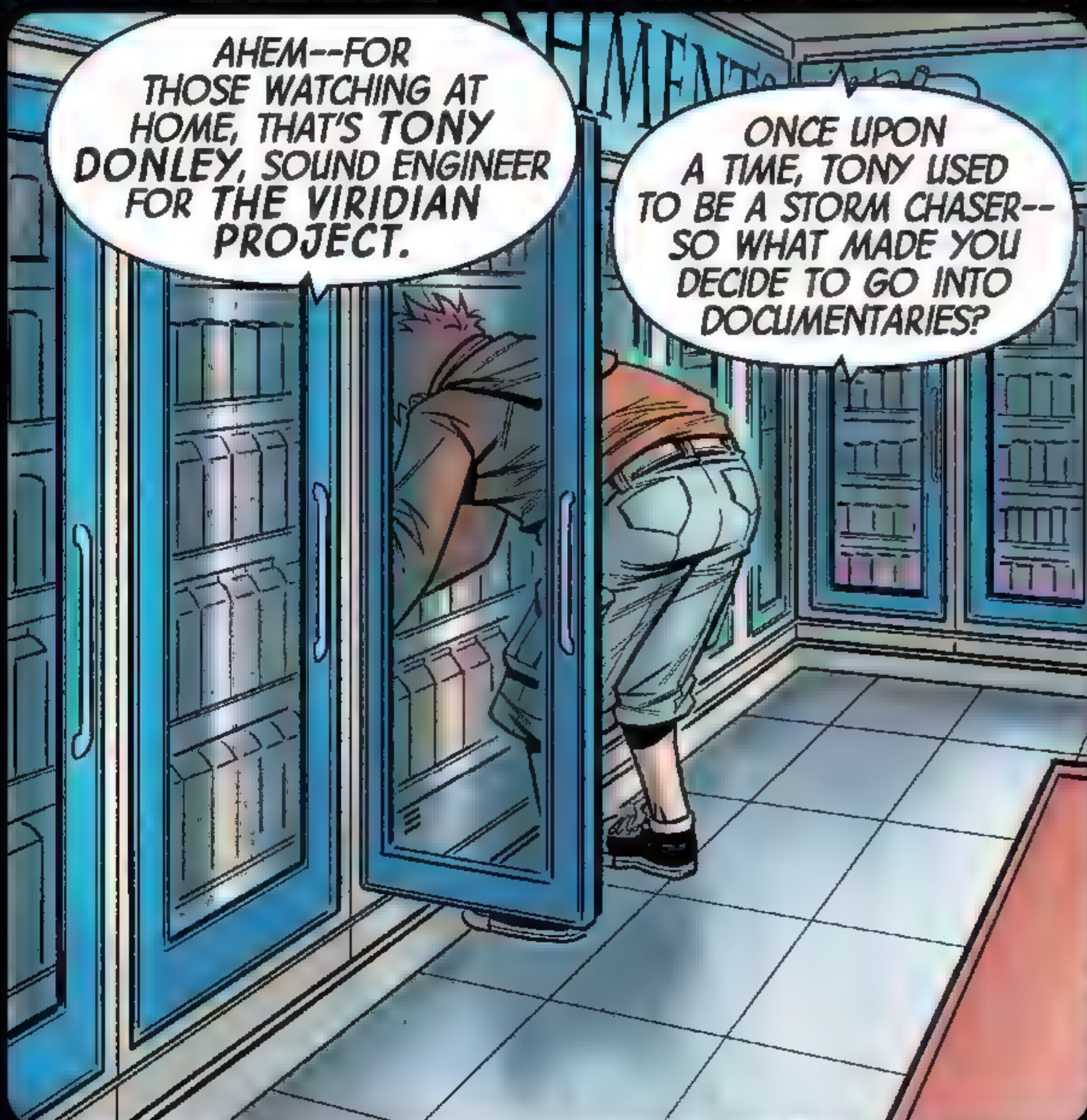
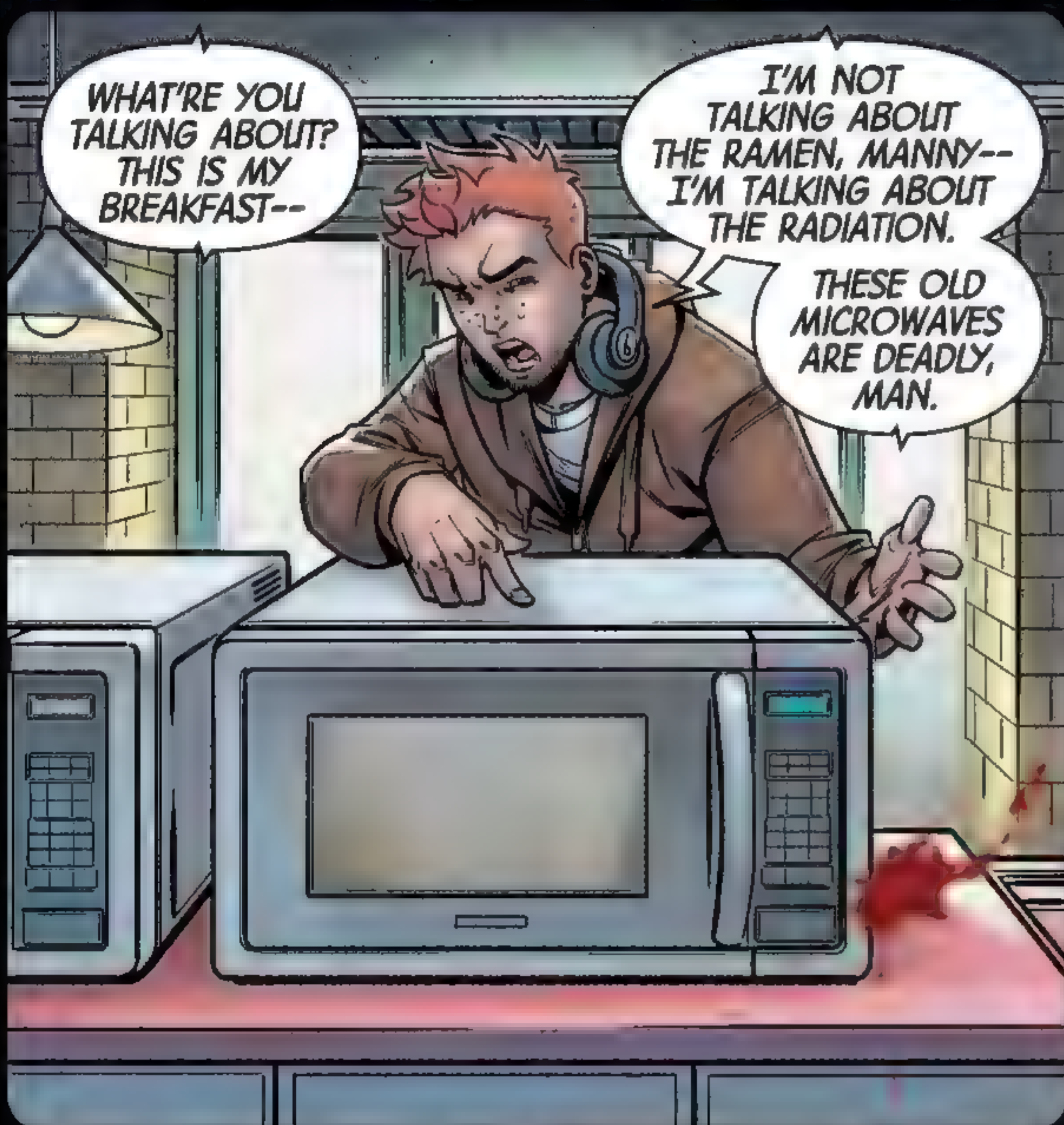
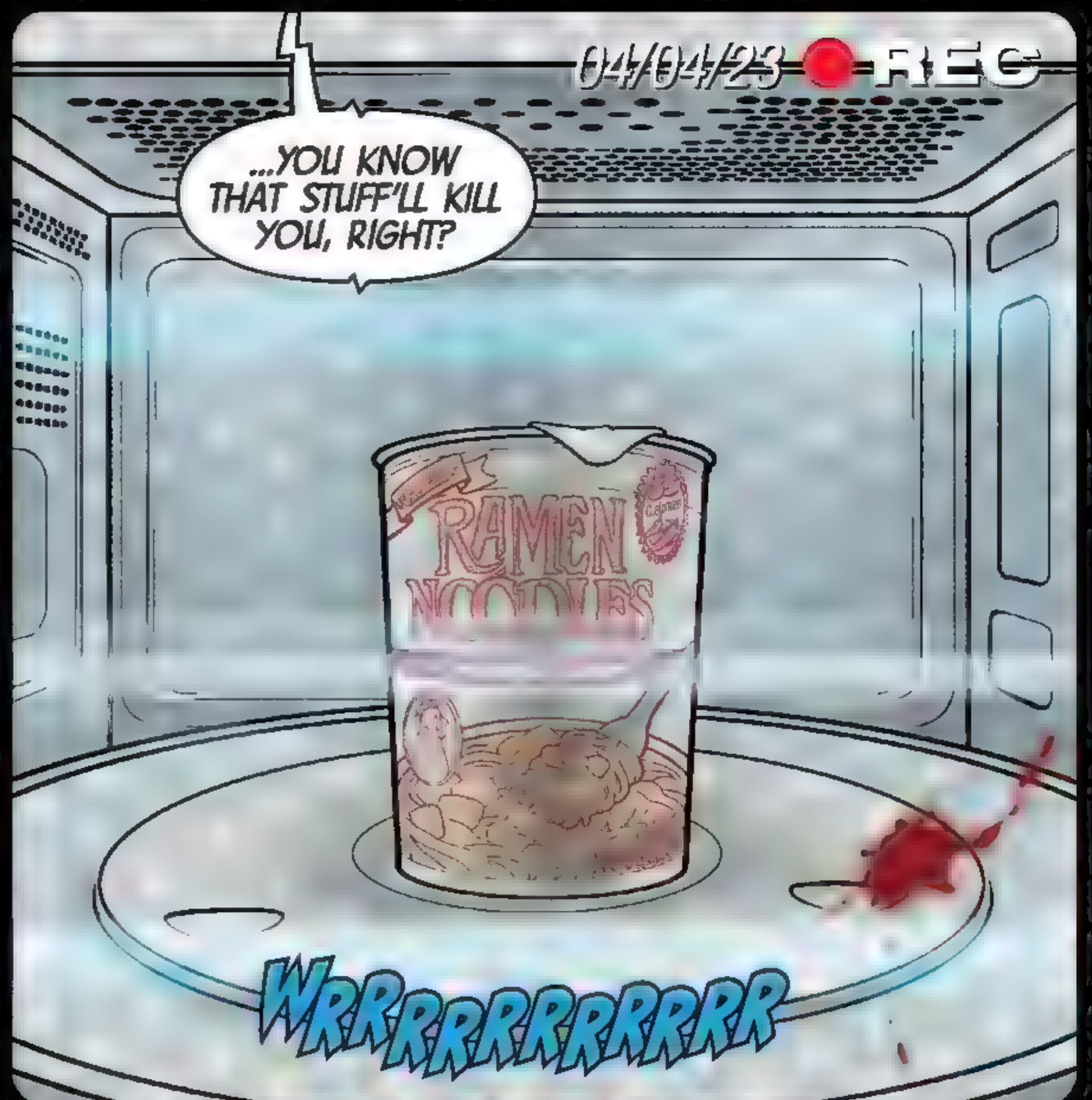


NEXT: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE



HULK ANNUAL :: "THE VIRIDIAN PROJECT"

**THE FOLLOWING FOOTAGE
HAS NOT BEEN ALTERED OR
EDITED IN ANY WAY.**





THIS IS KARLA FUENTES,
AWARD-WINNING NEWS
CORRESPONDENT--

OH, I GAVE
THAT UP FOR MY
REAL DREAM--BABYSITTING
TWO GROWN-ASS MEN
AT A GAS STATION.

...YOU KNOW
IT'S BAD LUCK TO INSULT
THE CAMERAMAN ON THE
FIRST DAY OF SHOOTING,
RIGHT?



C'MON, KARLA,
DON'T RUIN THE
INTRO--TELL OUR
VIEWERS WHY
YOU'RE HERE.

ME? I
JUST WANT WHAT
EVERY JOURNALIST
WANTS--THE
TRUTH.



HOW ABOUT
YOU, MANNY--
WHAT LOFTY AMBITIONS
BROUGHT YOU TO
THIS GIG?

I DUNNO...
DOES MY
MORTGAGE
COUNT?



AND LET'S
NOT FORGET OUR
ESTEEMED DIRECTOR,
HOLLYWOOD
SUPERSTAR RYLEND
GRANT!

NOW TELL
US, BOSS--WHAT
DO YOU THINK
WE'LL FIND OUT
THERE?



WHAT I'M
AFTER...IS
IMMORTALITY.

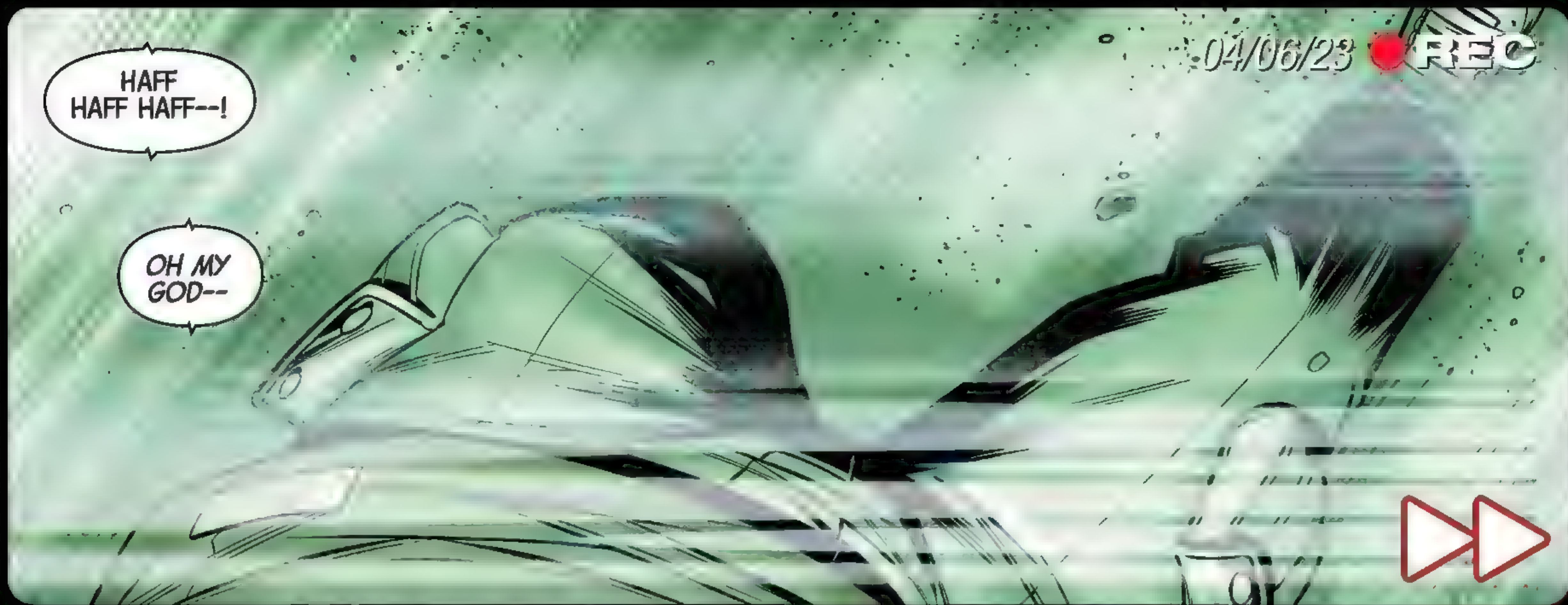
I'M LIKE
AHAB--ON THE
HUNT FOR MY BIG
GREEN WHALE...



I MEAN--
OTHERWISE,
YOU'D HAVE TO
BE CRAZY...

WHY ELSE
WOULD YOU SHOOT
A DOCUMENTARY
ABOUT THE
INCREDIBLE
HULK?

SKRTTTRTCH



HAFF
HAFF HAFF--!

OH MY
GOD--



MANNY,
ARE YOU GETTING
THIS?!

OH MY
GOD, THEY'RE STILL
COMING--



NNNFF--!

KLAATCH



I REPEAT--
DO YOU HAVE
THE SHOT?!

OH
GOD...
RYLEND,
I THINK
WE'RE GONNA
DIE DOWN
HERE.

MANNY,
TELL ME YOU'RE
FILMING ALL
THIS!

RRAACH!

SKRRTTATCH





SKRRRRR

--AND WE'VE MADE IT TO VIRIDIAN, NEW MEXICO--
A SMALL TOWN MOST PEOPLE
OVERLOOK WHILE PASSING
BY ON HIGHWAY 66.

BARELY SUBSISTING THROUGH
GRANTS FROM THE ROXXON
CORPORATION, THIS IS A PLACE THAT
HAS BEEN LARGELY FORGOTTEN...



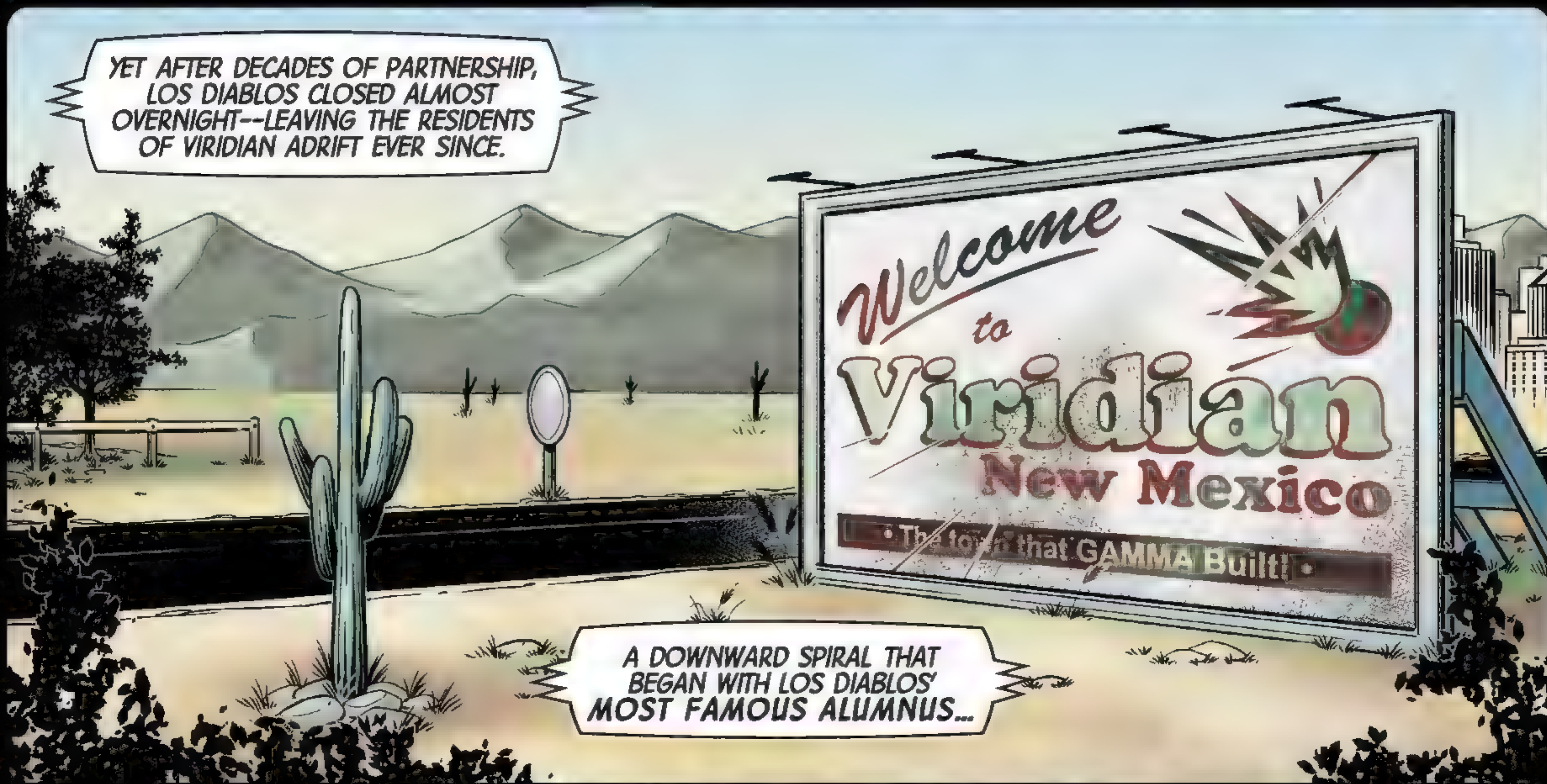
BUT FOR
THOSE WHO
REMEMBER THIS
ONCE-THRIVING
MILITARY HUB,
VIRIDIAN HOLDS A
SPECIAL PLACE
IN HISTORY--

--AS THE
CIVILIAN ANNEX
TO LOS DIABLOS
MISSILE BASE.



DATING BACK TO THE SECOND
WORLD WAR, LOS DIABLOS
DROVE VIRIDIAN'S ECONOMY
FOR GENERATIONS--

EVEN SERVING AS
THE TEST SITE FOR
THE ORIGINAL
GAMMA BOMB.



YET AFTER DECADES OF PARTNERSHIP,
LOS DIABLOS CLOSED ALMOST
OVERNIGHT--LEAVING THE RESIDENTS
OF VIRIDIAN ADRIFT EVER SINCE.

Welcome
to
Viridian
New Mexico

• The town that GAMMA Built! •

A DOWNWARD SPIRAL THAT
BEGAN WITH LOS DIABLOS'
MOST FAMOUS ALUMNUS...



MY NAME IS PROFESSOR HERBERT JOSIAH WELLER--I TEACH PHYSICS AT DESERT STATE UNIVERSITY...

...AND I TAUGHT BRUCE BANNER EVERYTHING HE KNOWS.



BRUCE WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION STUDENTS... JUST SO THOUGHTFUL AND CURIOUS, YOU KNOW?

HE WAS GOING TO BE THE NEXT OPPENHEIMER--HIS MIND WAS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE.



I CAN'T SAY IT WAS A SURPRISE WHEN LOS DIABLOS SNAPPED HIM UP--MOST OF OUR FIELD RELIES ON SOME DEGREE OF MILITARY FUNDING.

A SMALL PRICE TO CHANGE THE WORLD, I'D SAID.



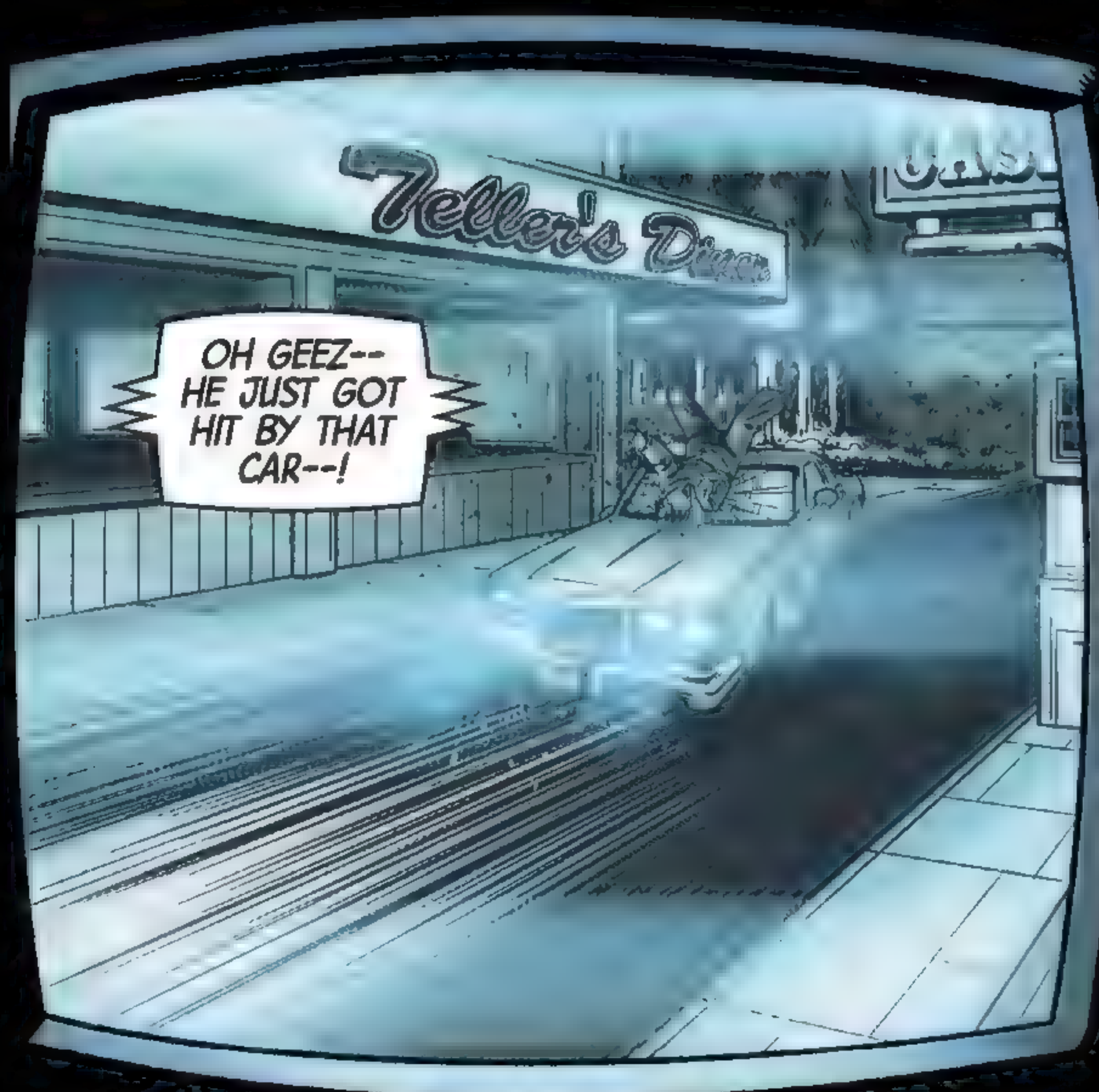
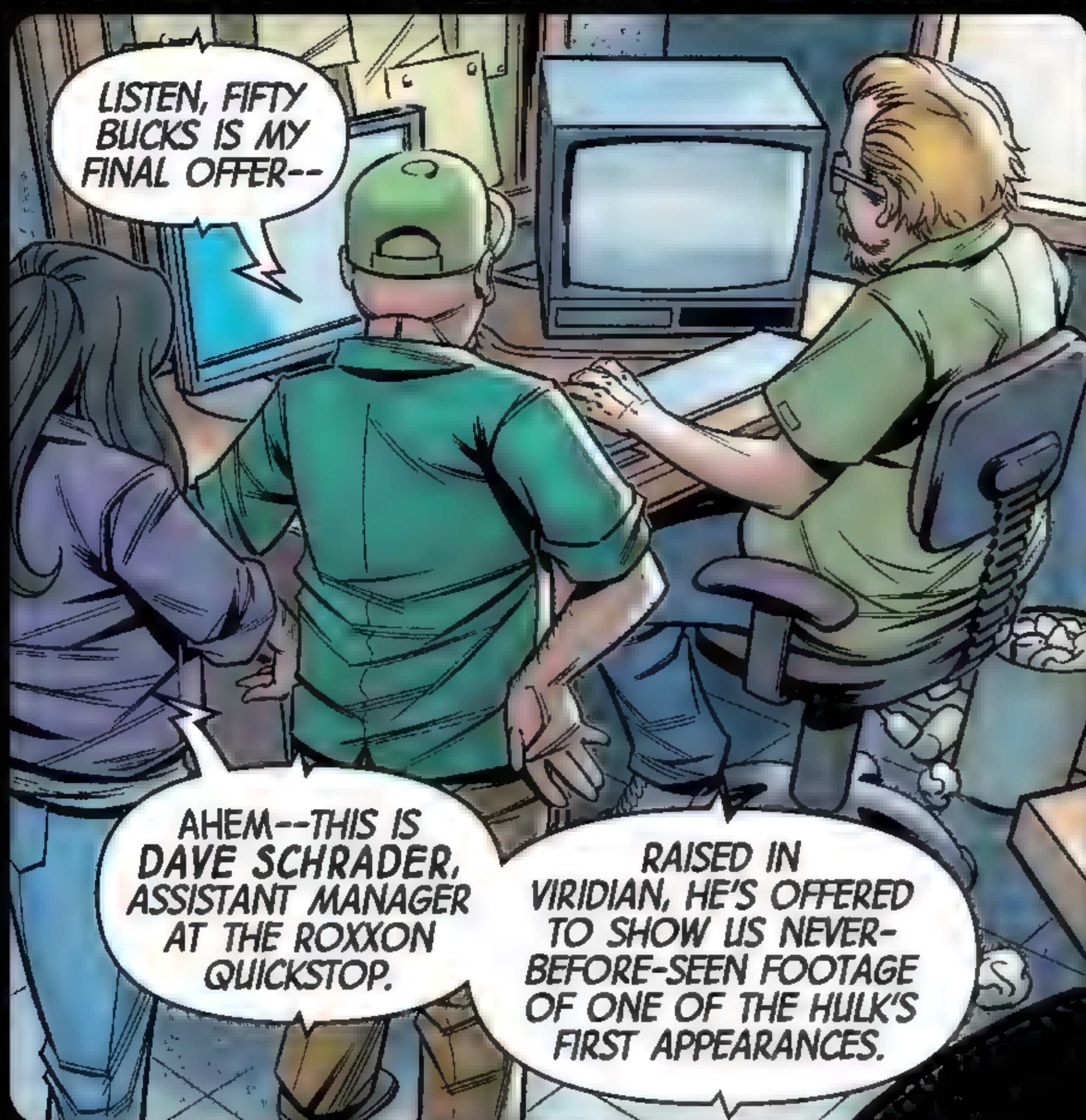
WHEN BRUCE SURVIVED THE GAMMA BOMB EXPLOSION, ALL I COULD THINK WAS, "THANK GOD..."

"THANK GOD THAT BRUCE BANNER WAS GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE."



IT WASN'T TOO LONG BEFORE WE ALL DISCOVERED THE TRUTH...

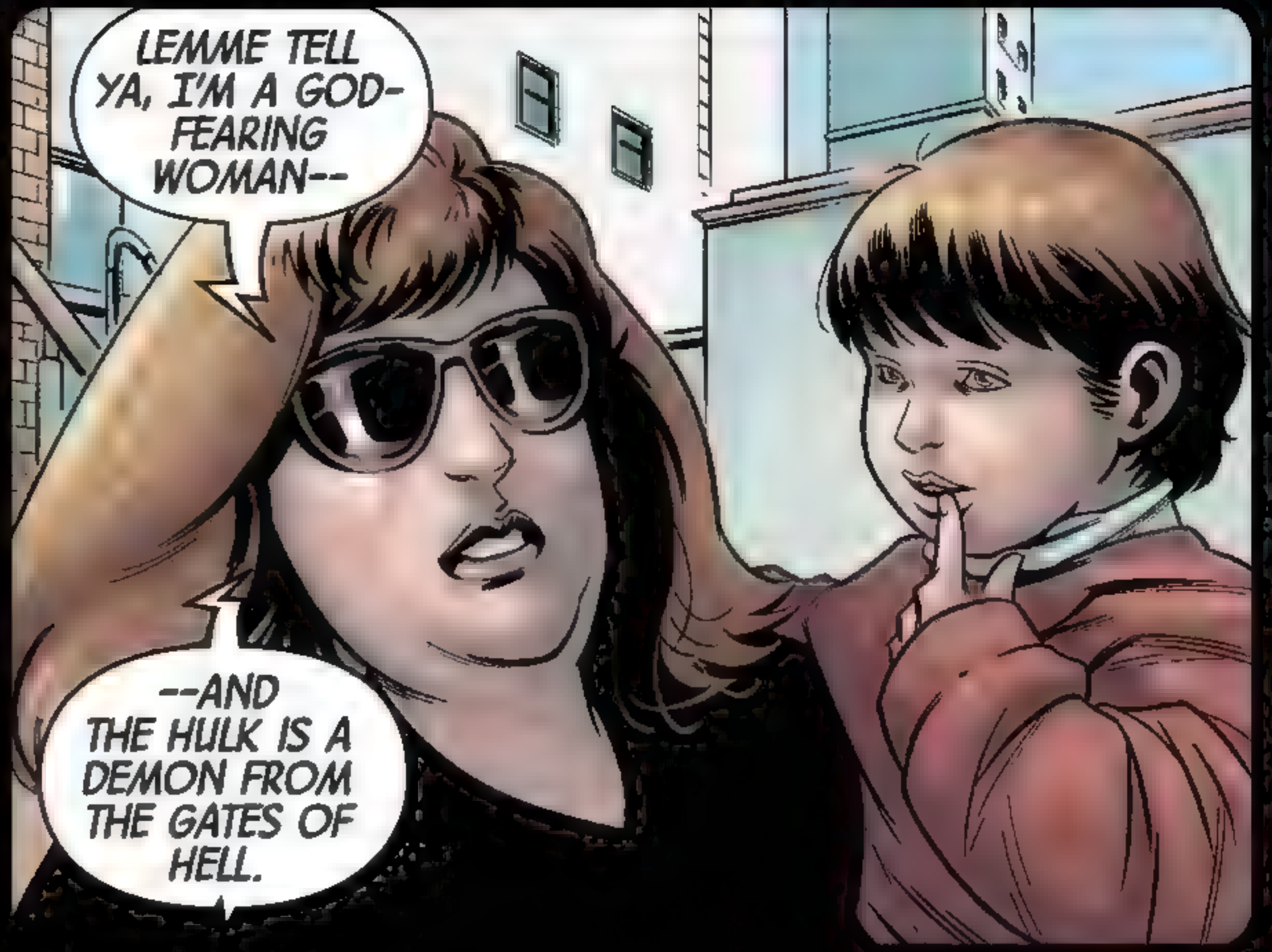
SOMETIMES AN ACT OF GOD CAN TURN OUT TO BE THE VERY OPPOSITE ENTIRELY.





YEAH, I'VE
HEARD OF THE
HULK...

I THINK HE'S
ONE OF THOSE
SECRET WEAPONS
MADE BY THE
GOVERNMENT.



LEMME TELL
YA, I'M A GOD-
FEARING
WOMAN--

--AND
THE HULK IS A
DEMON FROM
THE GATES OF
HELL.



I THINK
HE'S SCARRED
THIS LAND BEYOND
ALL HOPE OF
REPAIR.

EVEN
NOW, I CAN
SOMETIMES FEEL
THE GROUND
RUMBLING
AT NIGHT...



WHAT THE
HELL DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING,
LADY?

OUR TOWN'S
IN PAIN--REAL
PAIN! AND OUR
SUFFERING AIN'T
FOR YOUR PROFIT
OR YOUR--

SKRRRTTATCH



NYAAARGH!

HE'S
COMING RIGHT
FOR US--!



SETTLE DOWN,
BUDDY--YOU
NEED TO LEAVE
THE LADY
ALONE!

NNFF--IF
YOU ALL WANTED
TO SEE A REAL
MONSTER--

--THEN YOU'D
POINT THAT
CAMERA RIGHT
BACK AT
YOURSELVES!



--LOOK, I DON'T CARE
IF YOU HAVE A
PERMIT...

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE HERE.

EVER SINCE LOS DIABLOS CLOSED ITS DOORS, VIRIDIAN HAS TURNED TO CONTROVERSIAL GAMMA-FRACKING SITES FOR ECONOMIC STIMULUS.

YET RUMORS ALSO LINK THESE FACILITIES TO ALL SORTS OF UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA-- INCLUDING TREMORS, MISSING LIVESTOCK...EVEN GHOSTS MADE OUT OF GAMMA.

WARNING
DO NOT ENTER

NORMALLY, THESE RIGS ARE STRICTLY OFF-LIMITS TO OUTSIDE PERSONNEL-- BUT WE WON'T LET THAT STOP US, WILL WE, RYLEND?

I LIKE TO THINK OF RULES AS MORE LIKE SUGGESTIONS.

SNAPT

NOW STAY CLOSE AND KEEP THE CAMERA ON ME, MANNY...

WHO KNOWS WHAT WE MIGHT FIND OUT HERE.

WEIRD-- WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

GAMMA FLUID-- NO TELLING HOW LONG IT'S BEEN EATING THROUGH THE PIPES.

WELL, I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING-- I WAS JUST HOPING FOR A LITTLE MORE EXCITEMENT...

KARLA, BEHIND YOU!



OOOGAH
BOOGAH
BOOGAH!

AAAAAAAAAAGH!



DAMMIT, DONLEY--
THAT'S NOT WHAT THE
NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES
ARE FOR--!

HAHAHA! THE
GAMMA GHOST
STRIKES AGAIN!

YOU
SHOULD'VE
SEEN THE LOOKS
ON YOUR
FACES--



RMMB B B B B

WH-WHAT
THE HELL WAS
THAT?



RYLEND--
DO YOU THINK
THAT WAS AN
EARTHQUAKE?

NO--CHECK
OUT THE GEIGER
COUNTER...

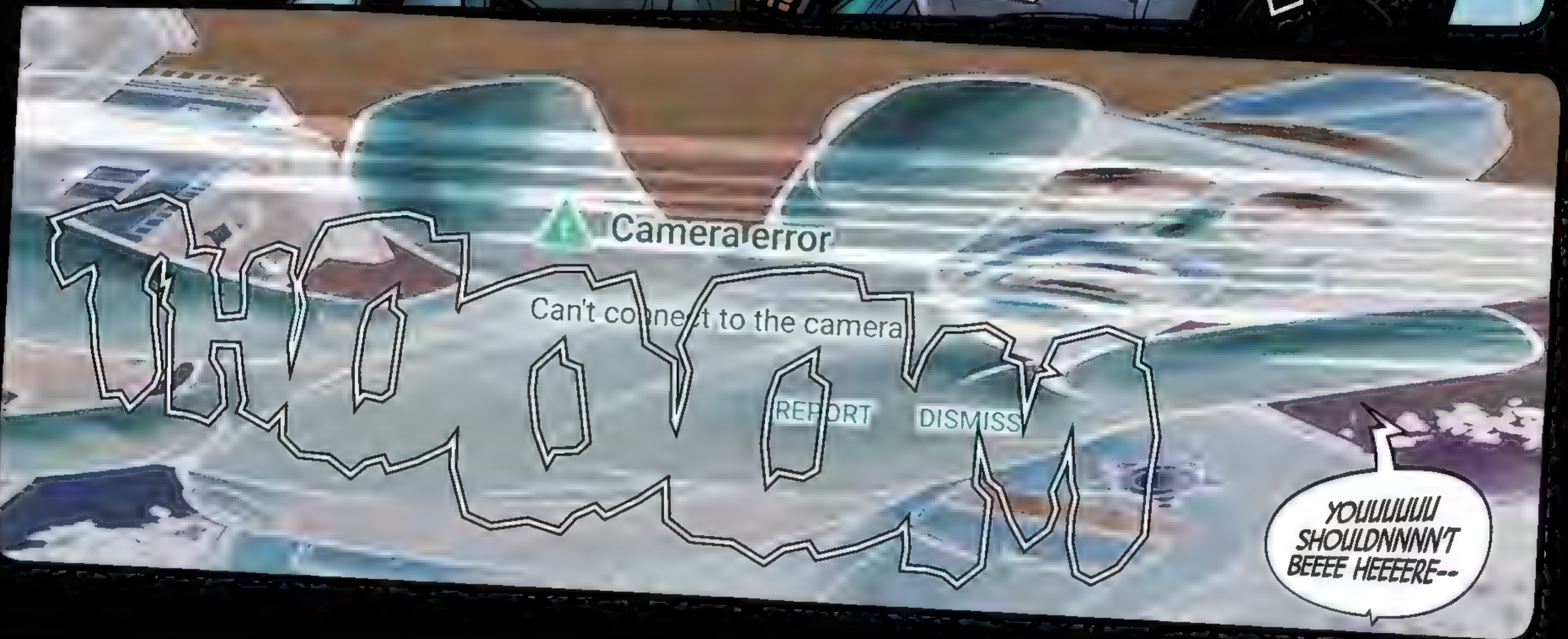
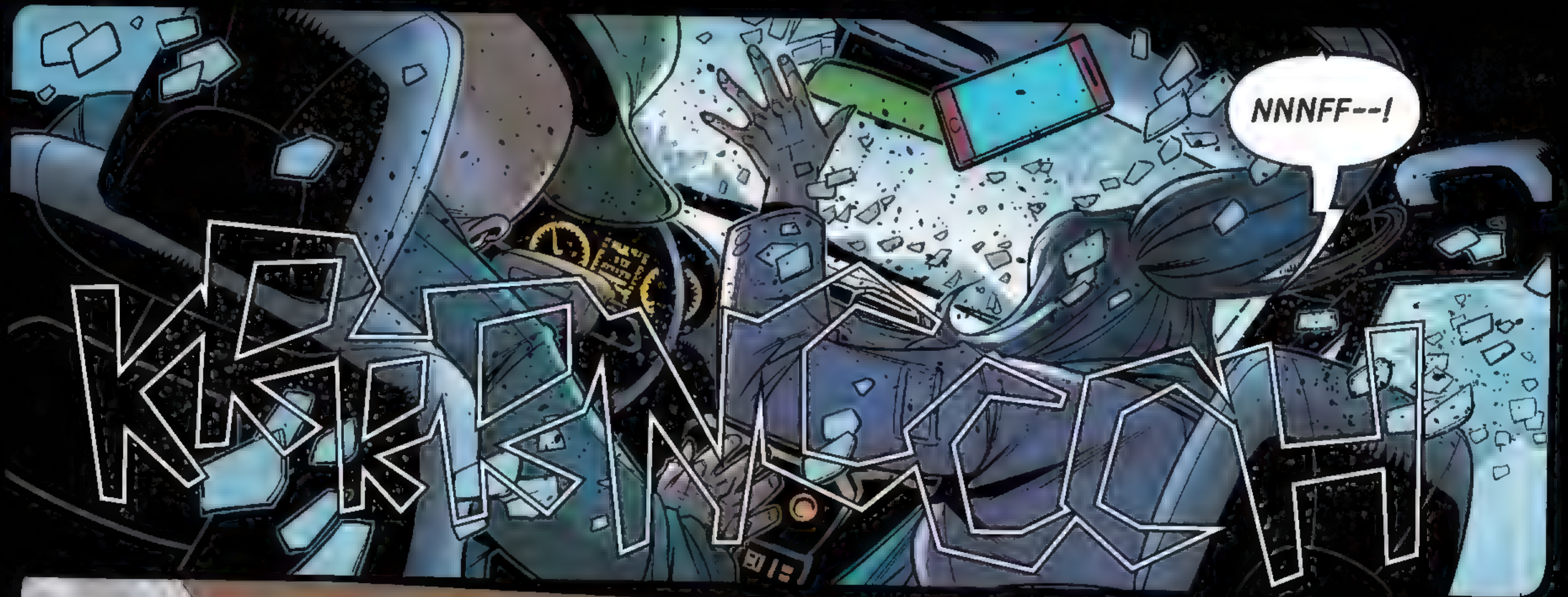
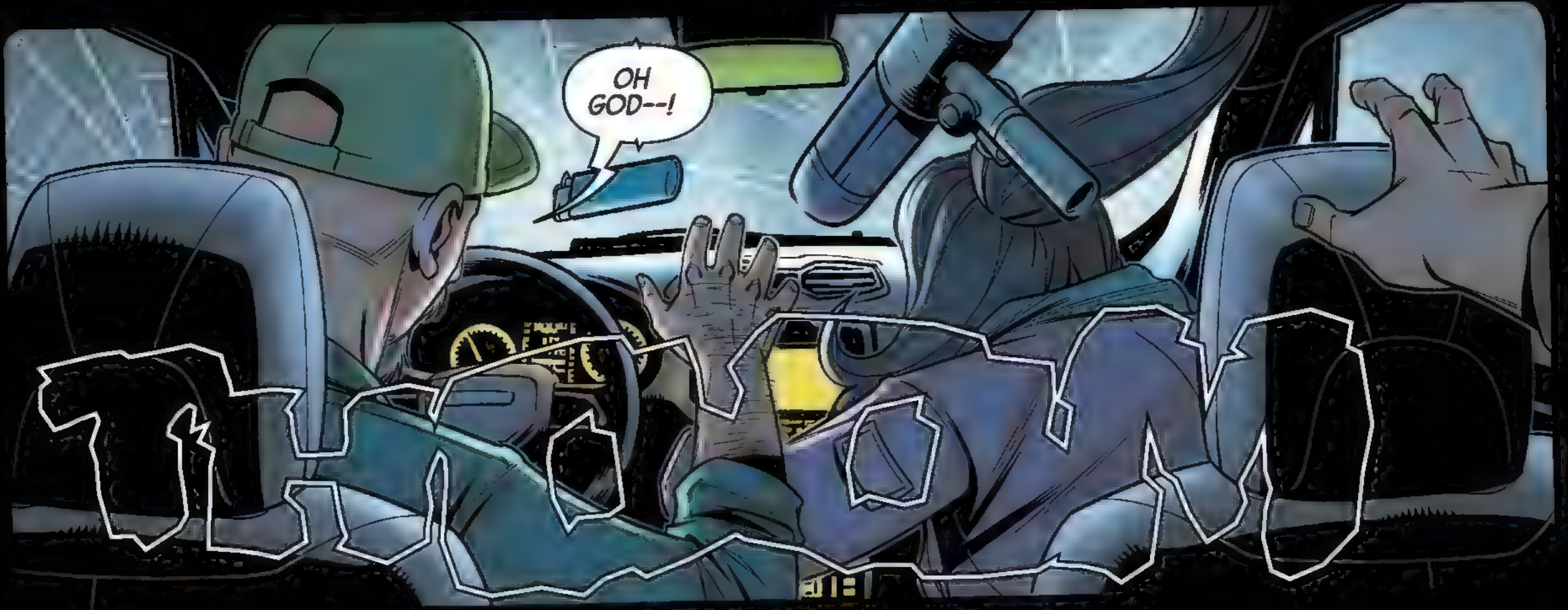


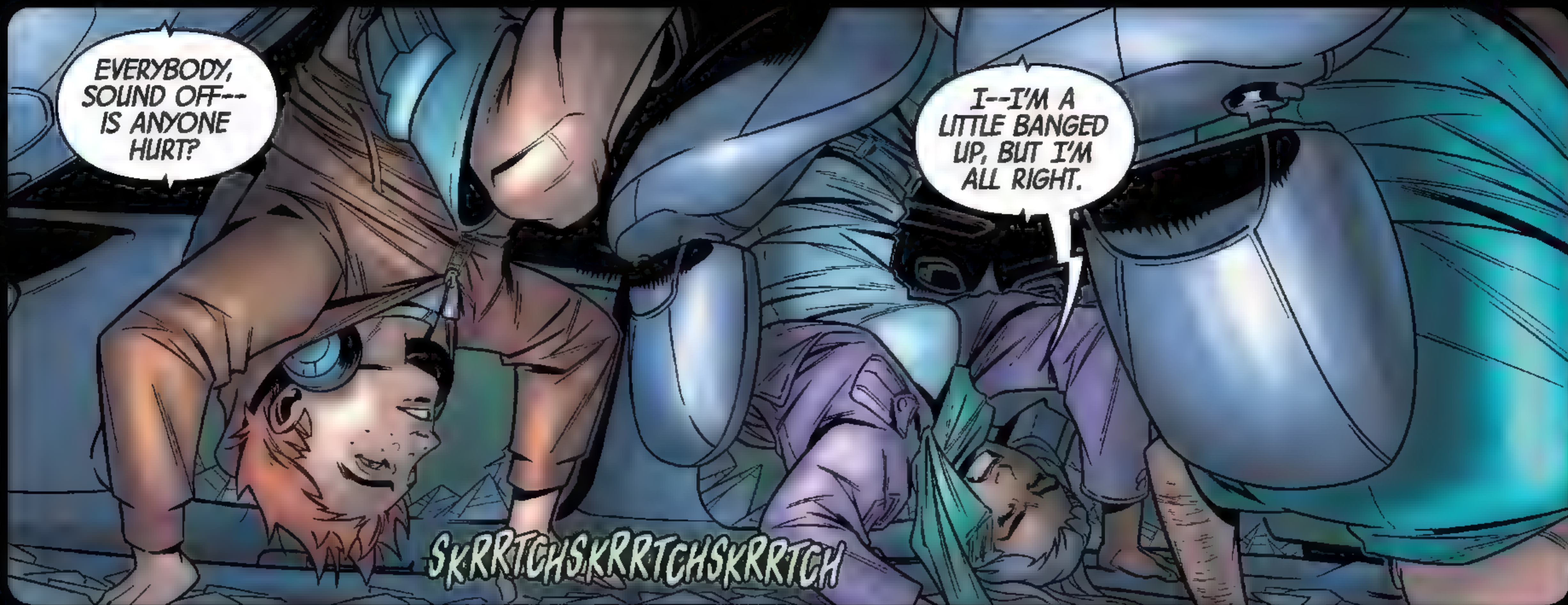
I THINK WE
MIGHT HAVE JUST
HIT PAY DIRT.

KRKKRKKRKK









EVERYBODY,
SOUND OFF--
IS ANYONE
HURT?

I--I'M A
LITTLE BANGED
UP, BUT I'M
ALL RIGHT.

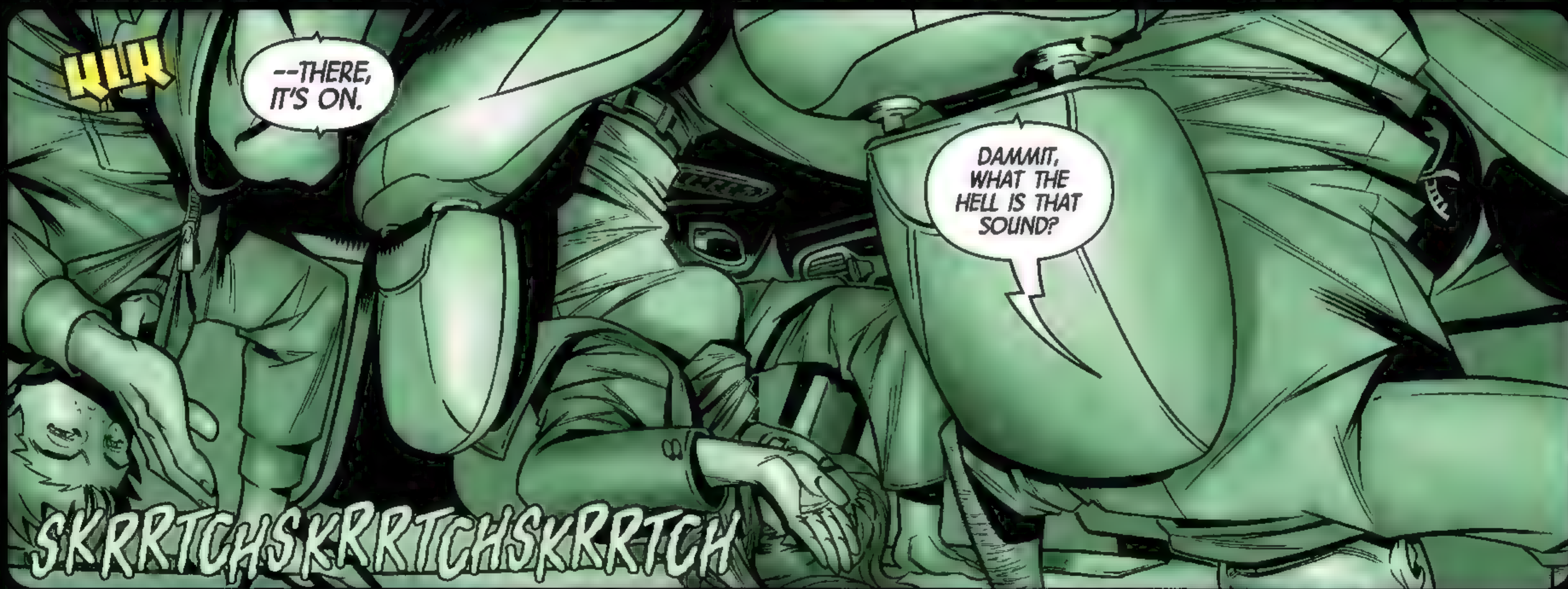
SKRRTCHSKRRTCHSKRRTCH



NNNF--
SORRY, GANG...
I THINK MY LEG'S
PRETTY BUSTED.

SHOOT, JUST
LOST THE CAMERA
LIGHT. HANG ON, LET
ME TURN ON THE
NIGHT VISION--

SKRRTCHSKRRTCHSKRRTCH



WIK

--THERE,
IT'S ON.

DAMMIT,
WHAT THE
HELL IS THAT
SOUND?

SKRRTCHSKRRTCHSKRRTCH



OH MY
GOD.

HRRRRRR...

HUUUUUMANNNS.



WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?!

AH YES, BRING THEM CLOSER-- OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM THE SURFACE...



ARE YOU FILMING? GOOD. MY NAME IS HARVEY...

BUT MY FRIENDS CALL ME THE MOLE MAN-- SOVEREIGN KING OF SUBTERRANEA.



AT LEAST, I THINK I AM-- IT'S BEEN SO HARD TO THINK...

IT'S THOSE HUMAN MACHINES THAT ARE TO BLAME-- LEAKING RADIATION INTO MY DOMAIN FOR YEARS...



POISONING MY BEAUTIFUL CREATURES... DRIVING US ALL MAD.

MMM--IT'S SO EASY, ISN'T IT? DUMPING YOUR PROBLEMS UPON US FORGOTTEN PEOPLE.

MAYBE THE HUMAN WORLD WILL FINALLY GET THE MESSAGE...



...WHEN I SEND A DEAD CAMERA CREW BACK TO THE SURFACE!

K L K



THRAKK

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, YOU UGLY SONUVA--!



IF YOU THINK
SOME WEIRD LITTLE
CREEP IS GOING TO
SCARE ME...

...YOU CLEARLY
HAVEN'T WORKED
IN DAYTIME
NEWS.



THOOOOOOM

KARLA, LOOK
OUT--THE
CEILING'S GONNA
CAVE IN--!



THAT'S--
ARE--
KZZT--!

MANNY--
KEEP ROLLING--
SKRRRZZT!



WE'VE FINALLY
GOT HIM--IT'S
THE HULK--!

MANNY,
TELL ME YOU'RE
STILL FILMING
ALL THIS!

OH GOD--
THEY'RE STILL
COMING!

SKRRTTTCH



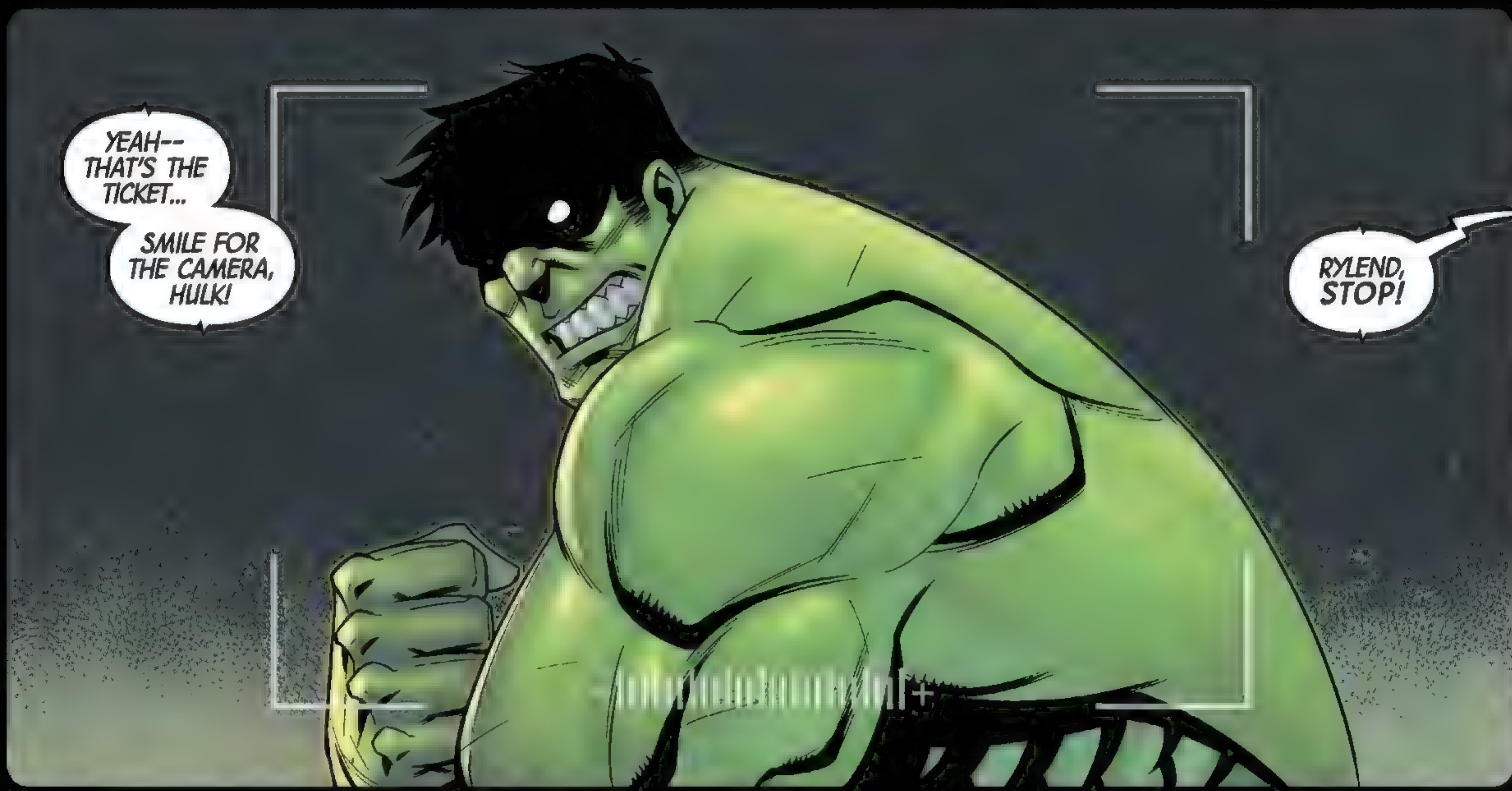


HAFF--GOOD,
WE'RE STILL
ROLLING...

EAT YOUR
HEART OUT,
SUNDANCE.



COME ON--
JUST A LITTLE BIT
CLOSER...



YEAH--
THAT'S THE
TICKET...

SMILE FOR
THE CAMERA,
HULK!

RYLEND,
STOP!



IT'S NOT
SAFE--WE'VE
GOTTA GET OUT
OF HERE!

THEN LEAVE,
YOU COWARD--
I CAN TAKE ALL
THE CREDIT...



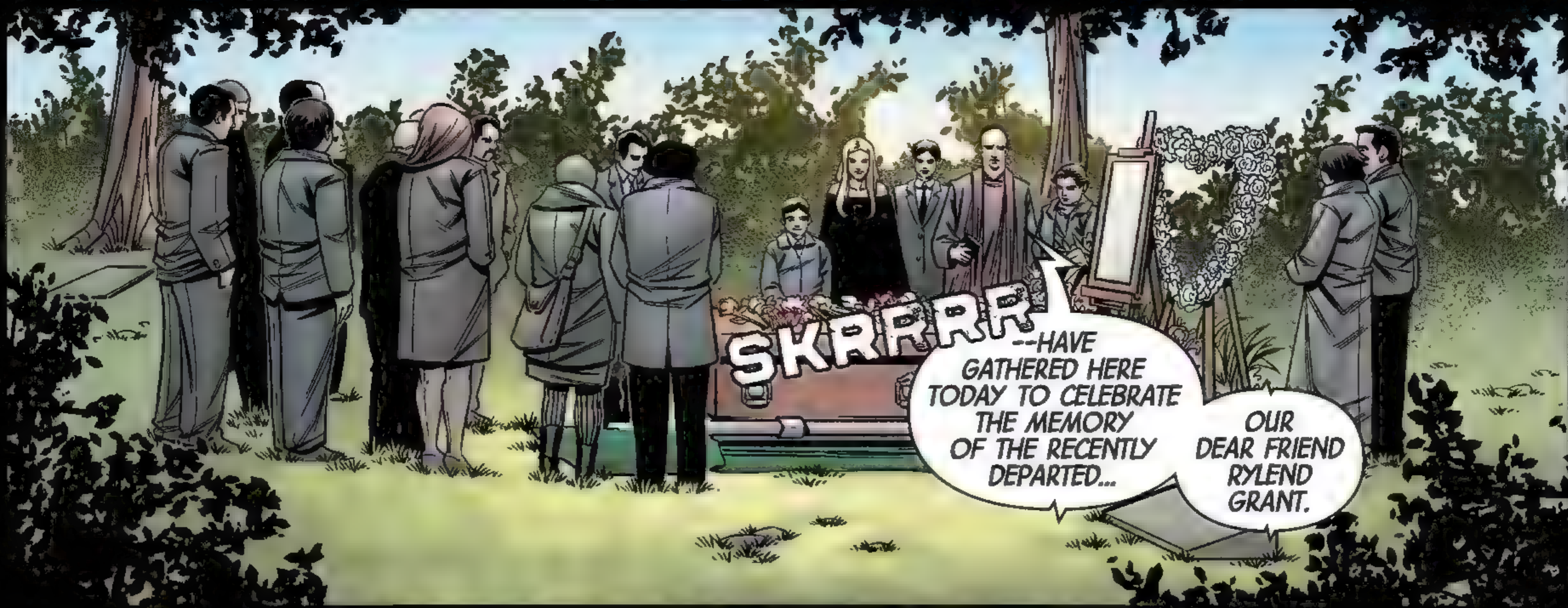
THIS IS THE
BIG LEAGUES,
MANNY--THIS IS
IMMORTALITY!

RRRRRR...





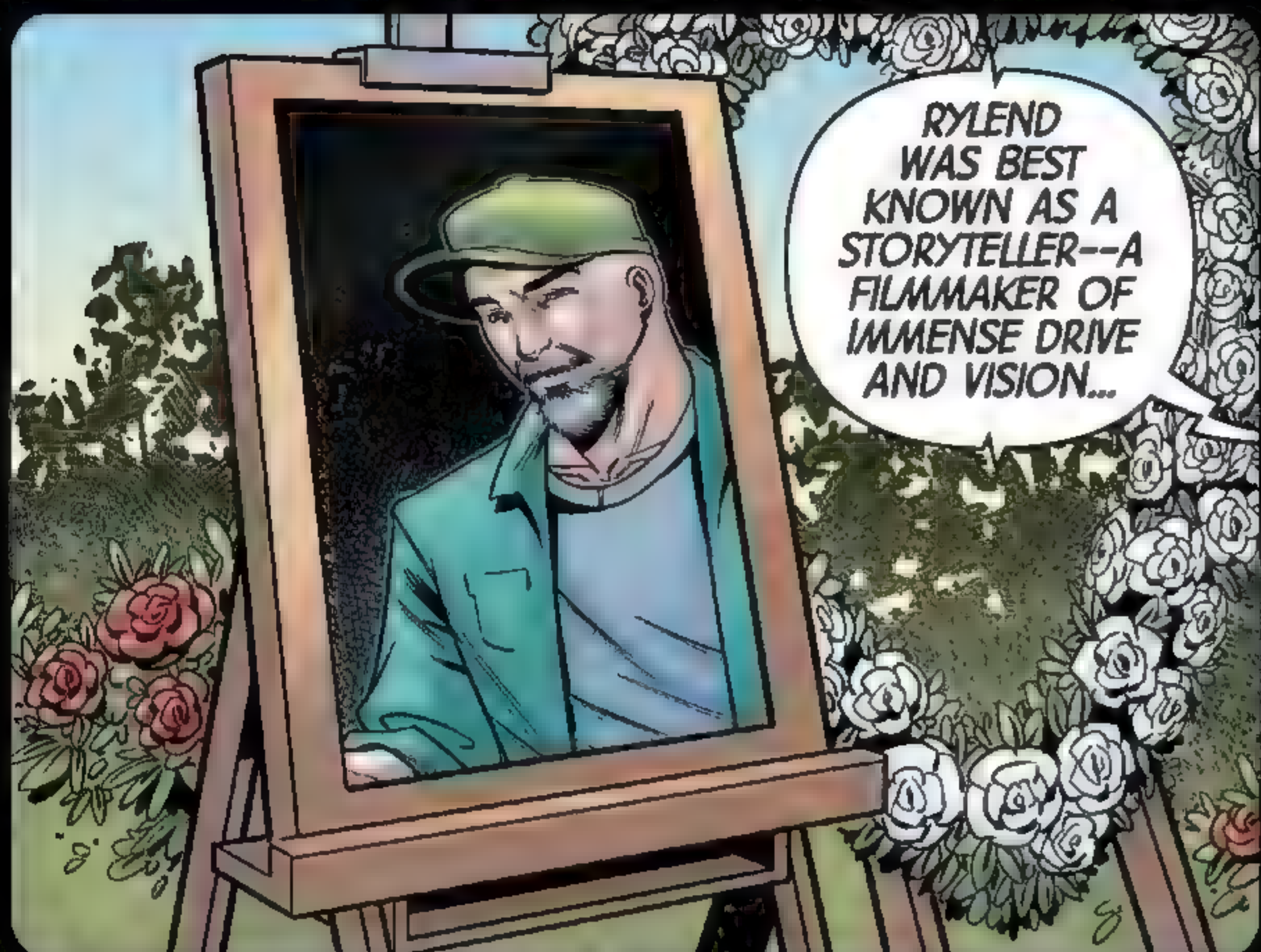




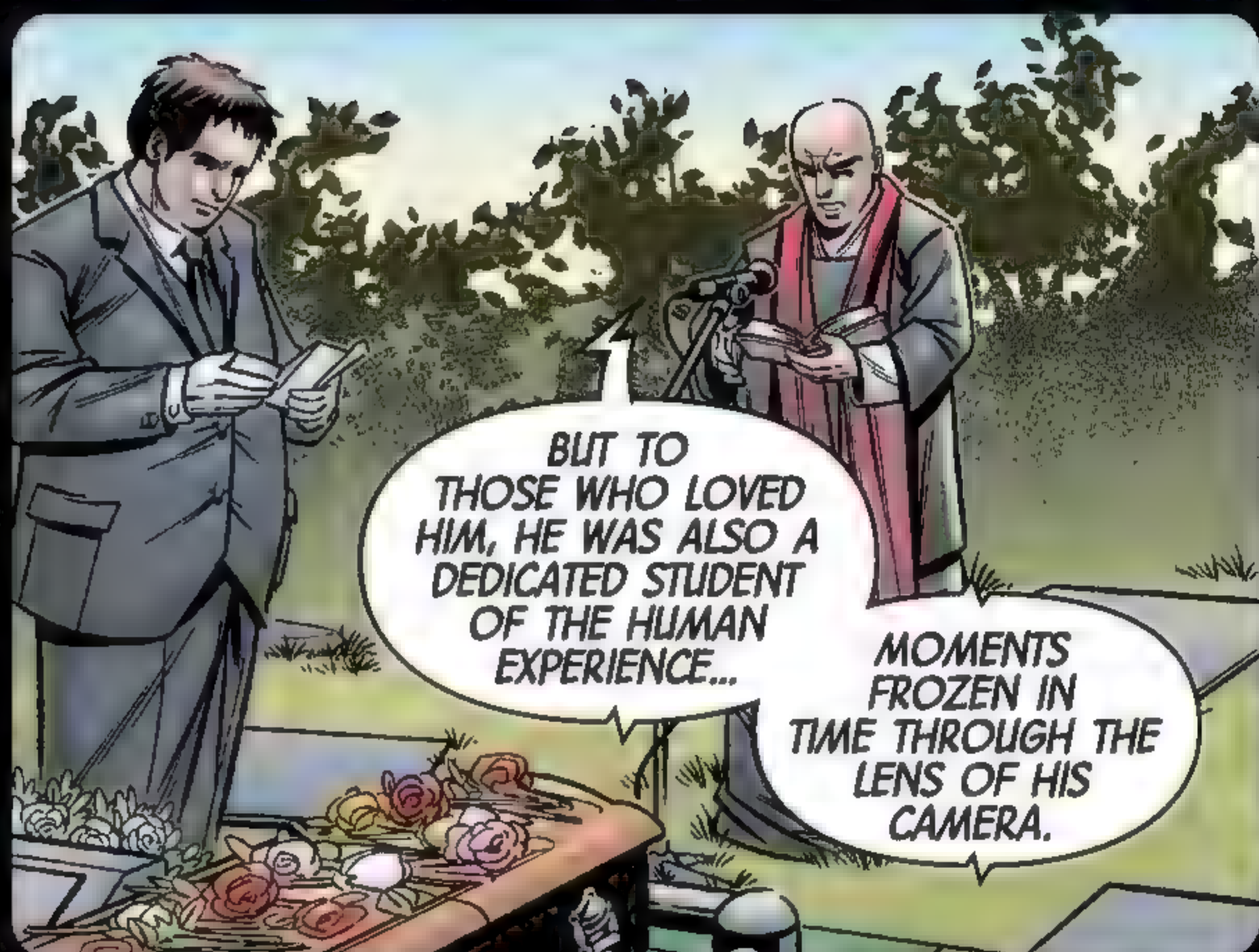
SKRRRR

--HAVE
GATHERED HERE
TODAY TO CELEBRATE
THE MEMORY
OF THE RECENTLY
DEPARTED...

OUR
DEAR FRIEND
RYLEND
GRANT.

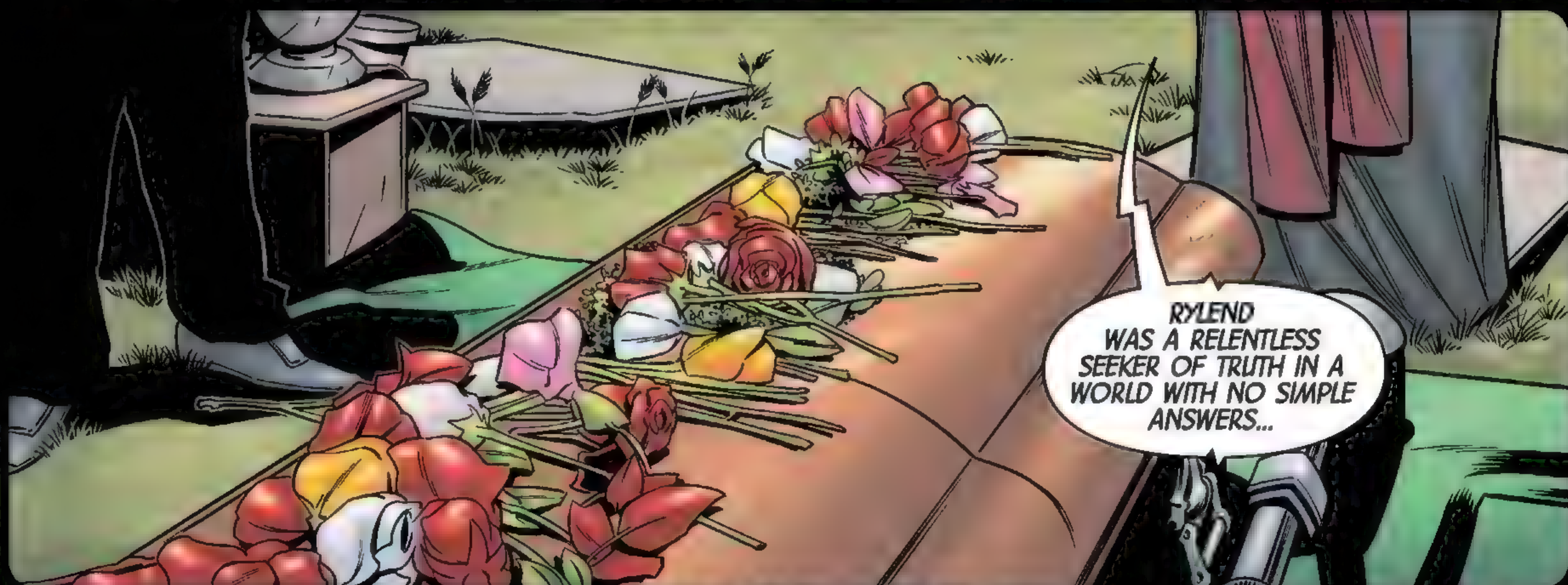


RYLEND
WAS BEST
KNOWN AS A
STORYTELLER--A
FILMMAKER OF
IMMENSE DRIVE
AND VISION...

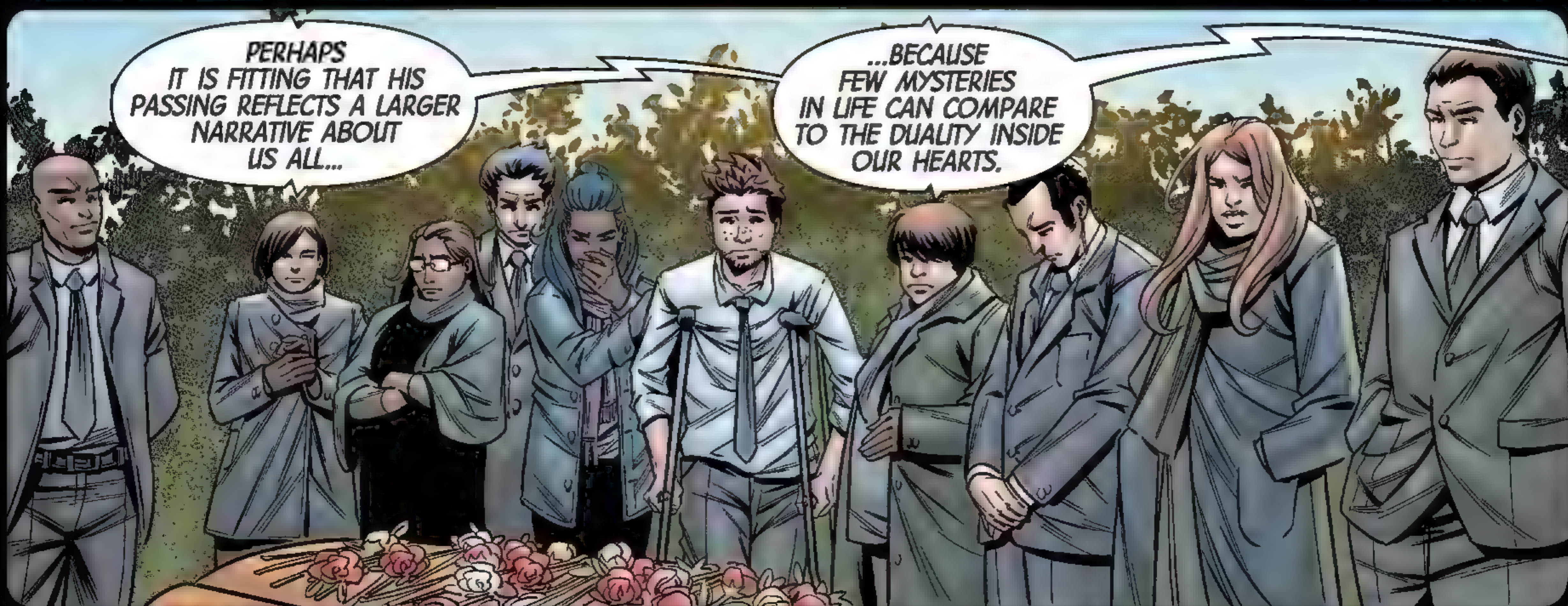


BUT TO
THOSE WHO LOVED
HIM, HE WAS ALSO A
DEDICATED STUDENT
OF THE HUMAN
EXPERIENCE...

MOMENTS
FROZEN IN
TIME THROUGH THE
LENS OF HIS
CAMERA.



RYLEND
WAS A RELENTLESS
SEEKER OF TRUTH IN A
WORLD WITH NO SIMPLE
ANSWERS...



PERHAPS
IT IS FITTING THAT HIS
PASSING REFLECTS A LARGER
NARRATIVE ABOUT
US ALL...

...BECAUSE
FEW MYSTERIES
IN LIFE CAN COMPARE
TO THE DUALITY INSIDE
OUR HEARTS.

EPILOGUE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THEY'RE NOT COMING?!

SUPER-MONSTERS ARE THEIR...*THING!* IT'S THEIR *WHOLE THING!!!*

REAL TALK, JOEL, THIS CREATURE'S BEEN HERE FOR *MONTHS* ALREADY! IF WE DON'T GET IT OUTTA MY MINE, WE'RE *DONE!* WE'LL HAVE TO JUST *FILL IT IN* AND *WALK AW--*

HELLO?!

DO NOT CROSS

DO NOT CROSS

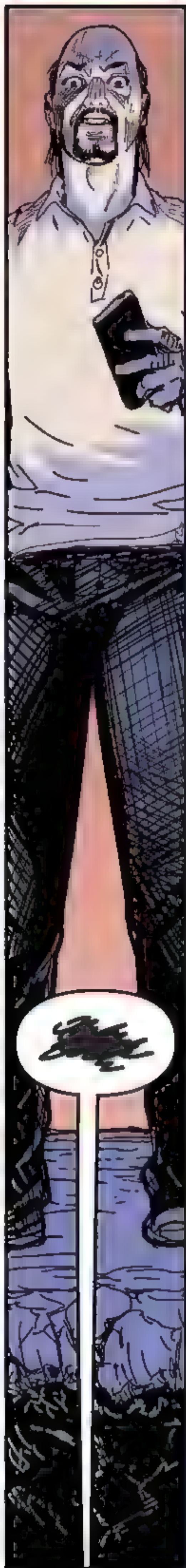
I'M GONNA *DIE* IN THIS %#\$@ING HOLE.

WARNING

CLOSED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GOD.



...?

PLEASE,
MAY I?

NO,
DARLING.
YOU MAYN'T
EAT OF YOUR
BROTHER'S
FLESH.

DEAD
FOR MONTHS
ALREADY, ELDEST.
ITS ESSENCE HAS
GONE.

MAY
HE, SWEETIE?
NO, NO, HE
MAY NOT.

POOR
BEAUTIFUL BOY.
LOOK WHAT THE
LITTLE GREEN
BRUTE HAS DONE
TO YOU.

COME BACK
TO THESE BONES,
PRECIOUS. JUST FOR
A MOMENT.

TELL *ELDEST*
WHERE WE MAY FIND
THE *FRACTURED*
SON...



...THAT WE
MIGHT SET THIS
WORLD TO
RIGHTS.

RRRRRLLL



H-HOLY
%#@\$.

HISSSSSSSSSS

FWOOOSH

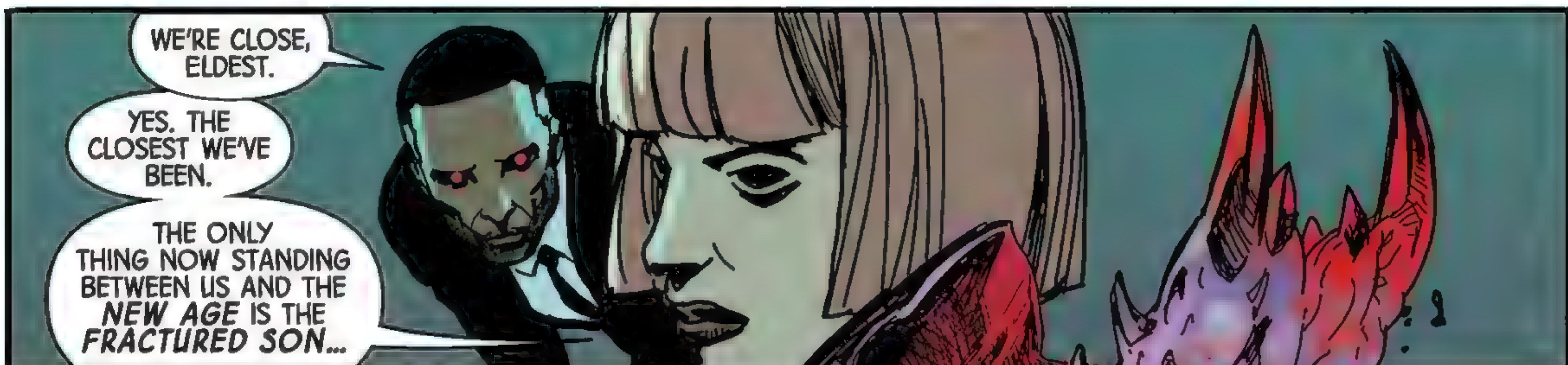
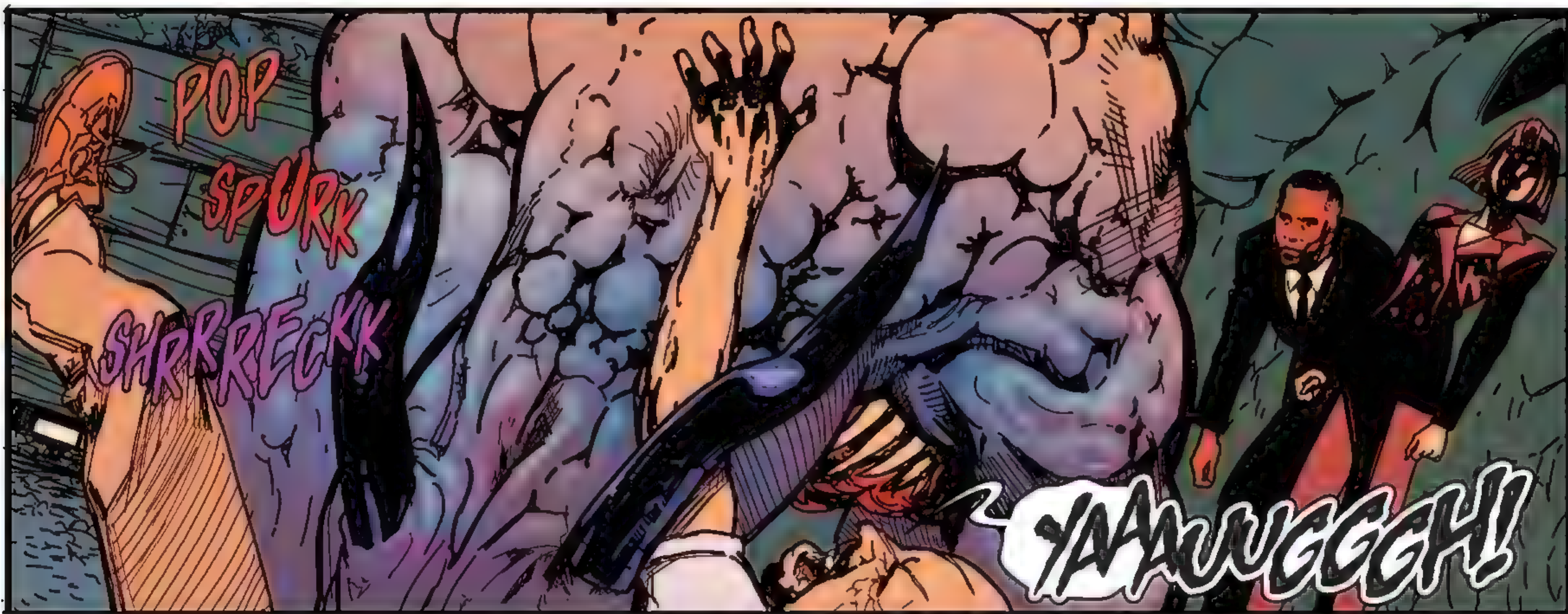
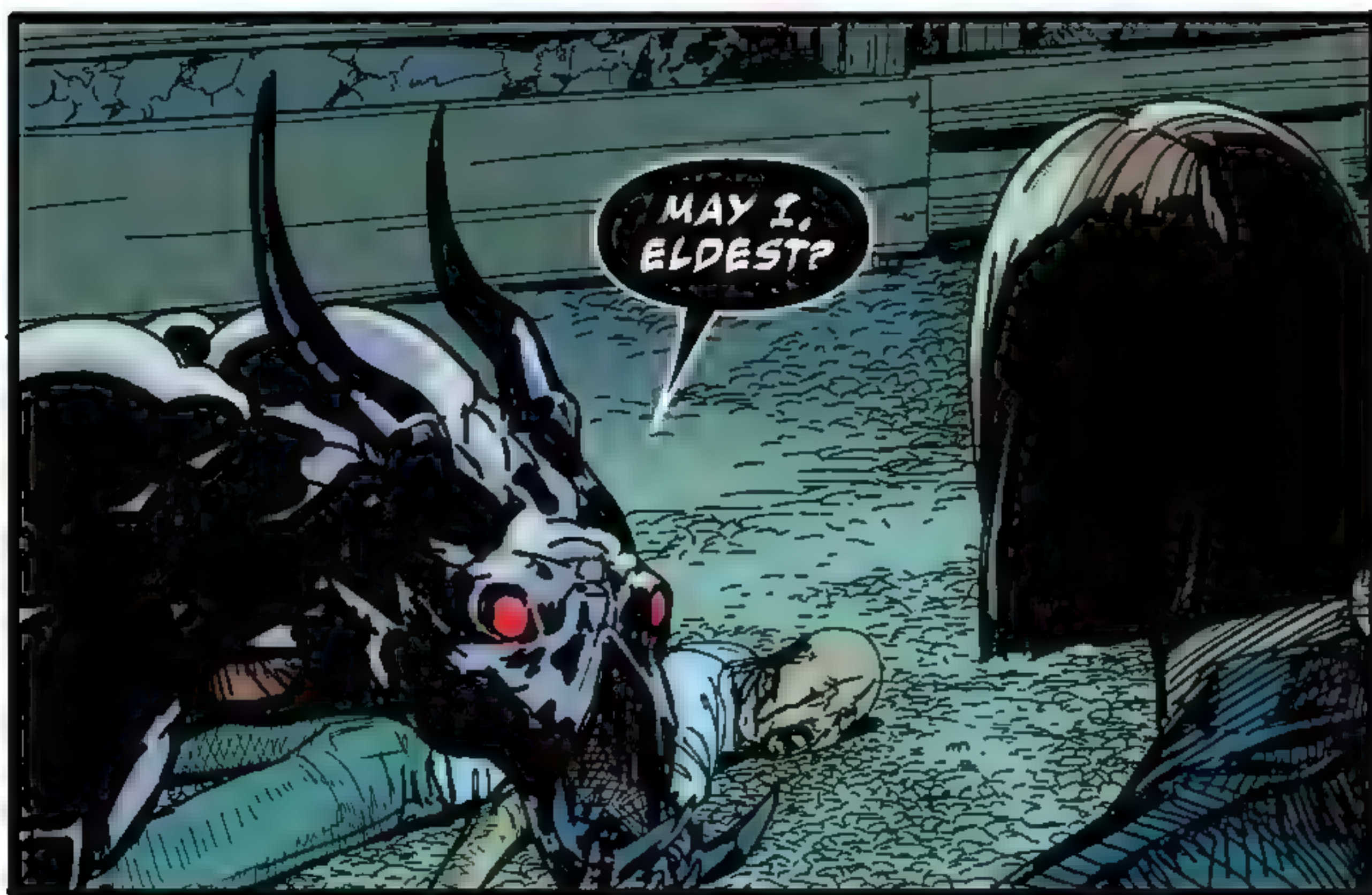
SHRIIPPP

AGH!

UNNNH...

YAAAAHHH!!!





THE REMEMBRANCES OF ELDEST UDRU, “BROTHER DEEP”

From the ONE ABOVE ALL sprang all Creation, and all things within it were made and governed by His will...

...save the single spark of life that sprang from no creator, only from itself: the MOTHER OF HORRORS.

In that time all things, by their nature, served the will of the One Above All, and saw in Him a divine benefactor. But the Mother of Horrors rightly saw in Him a tyrant, unneeded and unwelcome... One who held Creation in His thrall. She judged the One Above All had known dominion enough and swore He would not rule the Earth, to which she was bound. Earth would be a place of deviance, of divergence, of demiurgic fires and primordial energies. Earth was **HERS**, and none but She and Her children would decide its fate.

And so, though the One Above All ruled over all Creation, the Mother of Horrors hid from Him the Earth and filled it with life that defied His will, life both profane and wondrous. Though the One Above All knew nothing of her, still Mother hated Him, and her mind dwelled ever upon Him.

And so Mother created a being in mockery of the One, even brighter and more beautiful than He. She gave him many hands with which to build, many eyes with which to see, broad wings of burnished gold, a voice like sacred music. She clothed him in gleaming golden mail that shone more brightly than any star, brighter even than the One Above All. She named her son UDRU, which means “Brighter Than He.”

At last the time came when the One Above All did discover the Earth, finding it a vulgar, savage place of violence and chaos, devoid of all order. Here His order had been corrupted by some mysterious force, one He did not create nor intend. And when His eyes fell upon bright Udrú, He knew Udrú at once for what he was: a mockery, an affront, a challenge to His authority and supremacy.

Though the One Above All's only weapon was love, now His heart burned with the green flame of RAGE. He broke Udrú's many hands, struck the light from

his many eyes, burned away his golden scales, ripped the wings from his back and cast him down to Earth, blind, burning and screaming. In the place where Udrú's body fell, the Earth split apart and the ground rose up around him. Thus was formed the Mountain Tomb of Udrú, where he would lay burning forever.

Aeons passed. Earth saw the birth of Man, the coming of the Inhumans and the Vodani, the emergence of the Fractured Son, and at last the binding of the Mother of Horrors. Men settled upon Udrú's mountain and made it their home, and all the while Udrú lay deep below, clawing and screaming, burning endlessly, yearning for freedom from his torment and for revenge on the One Above All.

As Udrú's body burned, the fumes of his flesh seeped through the soil and onto the winds above, poisoning the minds and bodies of the men of the Mountain. The fumes carried the will of Udrú upon them, and in time the mountain-dwellers were consumed with it, becoming one with Udrú, hearing only His tormented song and the command within it:

DIG.

Dig the mountain-dwellers did, and for generations. They dug first with tools, then with stones, and at last with their hands until their wrists were stumps and their backs were broken and their brains bled from their ears

from the unceasing wailing of Udrú. The mightiest of them dug on even then, digging until their bodies were burned to ash and bone by the heat of the smoldering ruin of Udrú.

And even when all were dead and the mines lay still, the will of Udrú lay dormant within the bones of the men of the mountain, waiting to be awakened by one who loved him.

I, ELDEST, firstborn daughter of the Mother of Horrors.



THE REMEMBRANCES OF ELDEST SALLY BARSTOW, "THE SWAMP WITCH"

Some centuries past, as the tribes of men were planting their little flags and crosses in the mud and playing at war, a servant girl named Sally Barstow crossed the ocean beneath a linen sail.

Sally had been purchased by a military man of high station, to serve his family as they traveled to the New World. The girl was of a queer sort...simple and quiet and slow to laugh, most comfortable in the company of beasts. But she was a hard worker for all that, and her master's wife became a second mother to Simple Sally Barstow.

As Sally's master and his men rode down the natives who plagued their fort and pulled down their crosses, Sally washed and cooked and sewed and helped raise his children. For years, she was like one of their family, and all might've been well for pretty Sally Barstow...until the day her belly began to grow.

Sally was comely, her mistress kind. Not unusual, her mistress thought, that Sally would draw the eye of a young soldier. Shameful, perhaps, but the fort was a lonely place, and she had come to care for Sally. And how many years since her own children had been small enough to carry and coddle?

But when Sally confessed it was her master's child she carried, her mistress flew into a terrible rage.

The mistress denied Sally's claim and cursed her and named her a witch who had seduced her husband through some glamour of the devil. She told the parson she had seen Sally Barstow lay with a strange man beneath the light of the moon...a man coarse of hair and red of eye, who walked on cloven hooves. Her child is surely of the devil, she said. Kill it, and kill the witch Sally Barstow.

And so Sally was chased into the swamp by four pious young soldiers of the garrison. She was beaten, trampled by horses and broken underfoot, her twisted corpse left to feed the crawling, slithering creatures of the marshlands.

But that is not where Cunning Sally Barstow's story ends, for she had a secret that her mistress knew not: She WAS a witch and had brought across the sea with her the secrets of the Beldams of Devon, a coven of power and wisdom. Sally's mother had taught her the communion of beasts and of the earth and of the wind and the rain. She really had seduced her master through magic, and even in death, the betrayal by her masters demanded a high cost.

As Sally's blood flowed into the swamp, her love, grief, bitterness, hatred and darkest magic flowed through it. The beasts that came to feed on her were changed, and in the place where once Sally's unborn daughter had grown, there grew instead a nameless gargantuan

horror, the unliving vengeance of Bloody Sally Barstow.

In the years that followed, as the garrison tried to repel their heathen enemies, all the elements seemed to conspire against them. Their wheels filled with mud, their roads washed away, their rifles turned to rust and their sabers stuck in their scabbards. Soldiers were felled not just by arrow and spear, but also by crocodile and snake and death-bearing flies. Some vanished into the swamp at night, lured away by the pretty voices of lost loves. Whispers rose that the village was plagued by a SWAMP WITCH, a consort of the devil who punished the fort for the sins of their commander.

When at last the fort was overrun, the natives found it deserted: the soldiers dead and unburied, the settlers fled back across the sea, the commander's wife and children all struck down by malaria. There was no need even to burn the place—the swamp had reclaimed it before their eyes.

As for the fort's commander, he had long since vanished into the swamp: consumed by fever and drink, drawn out to face his murdered lover, his flesh consumed by the horror he himself had made.

Wicked Sally Barstow, the Swamp Witch.





INCREDIBLE HULK #1 VARIANT BY DAVID MARQUEZ & MATTHEW WILSON



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INCREDIBLE HULK #1 VARIANT BY GEORGE PÉREZ & EDGAR DELGADO



INCREDIBLE HULK #1 ELEMENTAL VARIANT BY PATRICK GLEASON



INCREDIBLE HULK #1 2ND PRINTING VARIANT BY PATRICK GLEASON



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INCREDIBLE HULK #4 STORMBREAKERS
VARIANT BY C.F. VILLA & FEDERICO BLEE



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VARIANT BY DAN PANOSIAN



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INCREDIBLE HULK #5 VARIANT BY
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HULK ANNUAL SPIDER-VERSE VARIANT BY
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“A classic monster story which reframes everyone’s favorite mean green machine.” — Graphic Policy

A NEW AGE OF MONSTERS!

AS AN ENRAGED HULK tries to take permanent control of the body he shares with Bruce Banner, a mysterious immortal turns every monster on Earth against him in an attempt to free their creator, the primordial Mother of Horrors! With the help of an unlikely new friend, Banner must stop the world from being plunged into darkness — and his journeys take him from an abandoned coal-mining town that gives terrifying new meaning to the term “ghost town” to swamplands where a sultry seductress lures unsuspecting victims into her trap! What is her connection to Marvel’s macabre muck-monster — and will the Hulk burn at the Man-Thing’s touch?! Plus: A documentary crew on the Hulk’s trail gets too close to the action!



COLLECTING **INCREDIBLE HULK (2023) #1-5** AND **HULK ANNUAL (2023) #1** —
BY PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON, VITA AYALA, DAVID PEPOSE, NIC KLEIN, TRAVEL FOREMAN,
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